

BIMSafe NZ – taking health and safety to another dimension

A VERSION OF THIS ARTICLE WAS ORIGINALLY WRITTEN BY FAITH DENNIS FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING ENGINEERS (ACE NEW ZEALAND)

"How can a 3D model save lives on the construction site?"

By allowing people to visualise risks more easily and communicate these earlier, says Paul Duggan, General Manager of the Canterbury Safety Charter and Project Lead for BIMSafe NZ.



BIMSafe NZ is a three-year \$1.7 million joint venture between the Canterbury Safety Charter and the University of Canterbury (UC) Building Innovation Partnership.

Funded by ACC and MBIE, BIMSafe NZ aims to change the way risks are identified, managed, and communicated on construction sites – using the visualisation and communication powers of 3D computer models. The project aims to increase the amount of health and safety information kept within a BIM file and increase worker access to this information.

What is BIM?

Building Information Modelling (BIM) is used by architecture, engineering and construction firms to document, visualise, and develop the designs behind infrastructure.

"A BIM model is a digital 3D representation of a project, which then becomes the single source of truth for all of the project's information, throughout its entire lifecycle," says Paul.

"Architects and engineers – civil, structural and service – work collaboratively on a single model in the design stage, rather than in their traditional silos."

"It has the potential to be a game changer in the way risks are identified, managed and communicated on construction sites."

Tackling health and safety by design

When it comes to health and safety, the more you can do earlier in the piece, the greater effect you will have – for the least cost, says Paul.

"Using BIM models really simplifies the health and safety by design process. Everybody can get together, look at a model, identify risks, and then solve them by improving the design."

"It's also so much easier to visualise potential risks in a 3D environment, than on paper. If you can see it, it's real."

Thanks to their visual medium, BIM models can also help break down language and geographical barriers, says Paul.

"People can be sharing and looking at these models from anywhere in the world, and the information is presented much more clearly than the traditional risk assessments that can get lost in screeds of other documents."

Riding the BIM wave

BIM models and processes are more common in design and construction projects than they were just a couple of years ago, says Paul. While designers and Engineers are familiar

with BIM models, we aim to extend this all the way down to workers and ultimately facilities users as well"

"We want to ride this wave and help people understand how health and safety can be wrapped into the process."

BIMSafe New Zealand will produce best practice guidelines for incorporating health and safety information into BIM models, says Paul.

"Any process that benefits from prior planning benefits from BIM. Once people can see how – the why becomes apparent."

BIMSafe NZ in three stages

The BIMSafe NZ project has three main stages.

The first is developing best practice guidelines for integrating health and safety information into BIM models. These are set to be published in mid-2024.

The second is trialling these guidelines in a case study. This will be the construction of the Ōtepoti building, home to ACC's new offices in Dunedin. It's been designed by Warren and Mahoney, with Ngāi Tahu Property and the ACC Investment Fund as the client. In this phase the BIM model will be used extensively for worker site inductions, training, and toolbox talks. Enabling the workers to access the BIM file will let them make real time decisions on health and safety and identify risks in the model space prior to work being done.

The final stage will be to promote the project outcomes and encourage organisations to adopt the guidelines as a way to reduce accidents and injuries on construction sites. This will be done by a series of video resources and a nationwide roadshow in late 2024.

"The success of the BIMSafe NZ project relies on industry input and uptake," says Paul. "In the near future an iPad will be a key tool in a workers toolbox."

"Designers, architects, contractors, and sub-contractors collaborating using this common platform have an exciting opportunity to bring about meaningful industry change, and literally save lives."

"It has the potential to be a game changer in the way risks are identified, managed and communicated on construction sites."



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MyACC for Business designed to streamline processes

In order for businesses to better manage their processes, ACC has launched an online portal called MyACC for Business.

Using the new portal means that businesses can manage their business account and levies and access claims report anytime.

There are also other significant advantages to using the system, including

- Going paperless – set your preferences to receive your invoice by email
- Update your liable earnings to ensure you get the most accurate invoice possible
- Use live chat to talk to a customer service representative
- View and download your employer claims reports
- View, pay or download your levy invoices
- Check and update your details
- Update, renew or cancel CoverPlus Extra
- Inviting a delegate to manage the business account on your behalf
- View and download your account activity timeline
- See and redeem subsidy offers (if eligible).

For those managing more than one business, they'll be able to manage all of their accounts using MyACC for Business.

Access to MyACC for Business profile requires a Google, Microsoft or RealMe login. Each business must register their ACC number or Inland Revenue number and have an email address or New Zealand mobile phone number to activate the account.

ACC also provides a tips page for help and support if businesses have questions, or online support options for further assistance.

For more details see:
Sign in or register tinyurl.com/MyACC-Business
Get tips tinyurl.com/MyACC-Tips