



Construction & Procurement Delivery  
Seachadadh Foirgníochta agus Soláthair



Department of  
**Finance**  
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**Airgeadais**  
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## Notification of the introduction of a requirement for NEC construction works contracts let by CPD to be project managed by an NEC Accredited Project Manager

### Background

In May 2006, the Procurement Board agreed that NEC3 contracts should be adopted as the form of contract for construction works and services undertaken by Departments, their Agencies, Non-Departmental Public Bodies and Public Corporations. The NEC3 suite of contracts promotes a collaborative and proactive approach to project management, requiring all parties to the contract to work in a spirit of mutual trust and cooperation.

### Requirement for NEC Accredited Project Managers

CPD is committed to ensuring that its construction contracts are robustly managed so that they deliver best value for money for the public purse and the tax payer. In accordance with that, and following consultation with the Construction Industry Forum for Northern Ireland, CPD is introducing a requirement that all construction works contracts awarded by CPD must be managed by an NEC Accredited Project Manager. The NEC Accredited Project Manager course involves 4 days of classroom based training coupled with online exams. Further information on the qualification and its associated training can be found on the NEC website at the following link: [NEC Project Manager Accreditation](#)

### Implementation Timeframe

CPD will implement this requirement on a phased basis. From **1 June 2019**, all new procurements for Integrated Consultant Teams (ICT) will include a requirement that, if awarded the contract, the Project Manager responsible for managing the ensuing works contract, within the ICT, either has or will attain the NEC Accredited Project Manager qualification before the contractor is appointed to deliver the associated works contract. This is a proportionate approach designed to ensure that firms:

- will not need to have an NEC Accredited Project Manager qualification to bid for CPD ICT contracts but will be required to obtain it within a definitive timescale following contract award;
- can include the cost of obtaining the qualification, if they don't already possess it, within their bid; and
- will not unnecessarily incur the cost if they are not successful in bidding for the contract.

## Implementation Timeframe (cont'd)

Firms should be aware that the requirement for the Project Manager to hold the NEC Accredited Project Manager accreditation will remain in force throughout the entire duration of the works contract, regardless of whether the original Project Manager leaves the firm or is replaced during contract delivery.

## Application to NEC3 and NEC4 Engineering and Construction Contracts (ECC)

CPD has previously notified industry that it is in the process of transitioning from the NEC3 ECC to NEC4 ECC. From 1 April 2019, CPD will mainstream implementation of the NEC4 ECC in appropriate Government construction works contracts which it procures from that date. Where the NEC4 contract is used, the Project Manager must hold the NEC4 Project Manager accreditation. If the Project Manager already holds the NEC3 Project Manager accreditation they can avail of NEC4 Extension Courses from the NEC to supplement their NEC3 qualification. If the Project Manager does not hold the NEC3 accreditation, they can undertake the full NEC4 Project Manager accreditation.

## Alternative qualification to the NEC Project Manager Accreditation

CPD has consulted with the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) which has confirmed that Module 2 of the ICE Law and Contract Management Examination and the NEC Project Manager Accreditation assess broadly similar areas of competency. As an alternative to attaining the NEC ECC Project Manager Accreditation, CPD will accept Project Managers that have successfully passed the above ICE exam. Further information on the ICE Examination can be found at the following link: [ICE Law and Contract Management Examination](#). Project Managers should note that the ICE Law and Contract Management Exam is held only once per year, and normally in June.

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