

# Chapter 36

## Health and safety

*This chapter provides guidance on health and safety principles and practices relevant to SuDS. The chapter is intended to provide guidance to designers, drainage approval and adoption bodies, and the public on health and safety aspects associated with SuDS, including:*

- *balancing the benefits of SuDS with any potential health and safety risks*
- *good practice design approaches and principles to support the appropriate management of risk to low levels*
- *background information to allow drainage approval bodies to be confident that drainage assets will not pose a liability in either the short or long term*
- *health and safety risk assessment of schemes in-line with BS EN 31010:2010.*

► *The guidance in this chapter is supported by the health and safety risk management checklist included in Appendix B.*

### 36.1 INTRODUCTION

#### 36.1.1 Why should health and safety be considered?

The planning, design, construction and management of sustainable drainage systems falls under the requirements of the Construction, Design and Management (CDM) Regulations 2015. This and other relevant regulations and legislation are presented in **Section 36.5**. This chapter can be used in helping to ensure that SuDS designs fulfil regulatory and legal requirements, and SuDS health and safety risk assessments are in line with BS EN 31010:2010.

This chapter only covers specific health and safety issues relating to the provision of open water components (both permanent and temporary) as part of SuDS. It does not cover general issues and regulation associated with standard health and safety at work principles and conventional drainage design (eg confined spaces – although these are discussed briefly for completeness). Also, it does not cover issues such as highway safety audits that may include some parts of a SuDS scheme (eg permeable pavements or swales adjacent to highways).

#### 36.1.2 When should health and safety be considered?

The SuDS designer has a responsibility to address health and safety under CDM 2015, and must demonstrate this. Health and safety assessment will be a continuous process; it does not just stop once the boxes are ticked. It should be discussed, and principles agreed, at conceptual and outline design stages as part of the CDM designer's risk assessment process. The risk assessment should then be developed and reviewed at all stages of design, construction and maintenance.

A health and safety assessment should be undertaken by the organisation approving the drainage (drainage approving body) when assessing the design of a SuDS scheme. It should also be reviewed following construction and also on a regular basis during operation. The review should consider any changes that have been made to the approved design during construction or operation (see HSE, 2015).