



What Value is the MACCS to a Contractor?

It has to be said that most contractors join the Manx Accredited Construction Contractors Scheme (MACCS) to get access to publicly funded work. It is a requirement of Government that all contractors working on publicly funded schemes, and that includes most local authority work, are on MACCS.

The thinking behind this requirement is to ensure that all contractors benefitting from Government funds do, at least, meet minimum standards in how they run their business. This includes experience, qualifications, insurance, employment conditions, health and safety, and many other areas. It provides something of a 'level playing field' then, for Government contractors.

Membership of MACCS includes, if required, membership of the Isle of Man Construction Federation. The Federation administers MACCS and there are details below of the services on offer from the Federation, free of charge to all members. One of these is the circulation of all public sector tenders, by e-mail, direct to MACCS contractors and Federation members.

There are, of course, contractors who do not carry out Government work who also join MACCS. They see a value in belonging to the Scheme in terms of its promotion of high standards in the industry.

The value of using a MACCS contractor, to domestic clients, is marketed by the Federation. Advice sheets are produced for domestic clients providing detailed advice on selecting a contractor and what safeguards and advice would be in place if that contractor is MACCS approved. Also advice sheets for contractors on what a domestic client might expect, and how to manage that relationship. As well as media releases marketing MACCS, staff from the Federation have publicised the Scheme on local radio.

How can Membership of MACCS help a Contractor?

Small and medium contractors are traditionally very competent technically, but often struggle with administration, legislation, and other paperwork.

The staff at the Federation administering the MACCS has extensive knowledge, not only of the local industry, but also the operation of Government, relevant legislation, and many other associate issues. Access to and advice from, the staff is totally free for MACCS members, and some of the advice often provided includes:

- Employment legislation;
- Holidays;
- Discipline;
- Sub-contract disputes;
- Client disputes;
- Training

Experience has shown that seeking prompt advice from the Federation on these issues, or any other, can often save the contractor time, worry, and money.

Although contractors will always complain about paying a fee for this Scheme, we believe it represents good value for money in terms of the assistance and advice that is always available. In addition the Construction Federation is a non profit making organisation and any surplus is available for the support of training, marketing etc.