



WHY?

This FACT SHEET has been created by The British Sign and Graphics Association to:

Raise Awareness:

Emphasise the importance of RAMS ownership and subcontractor compliance for safety, legal compliance, and accessibility.

Guide Compliance:

Share clear, concise guidance on achieving regulatory standards.

Promote Best Practices:

Highlight creative, functional solutions that balance safety with design.

Set Standards:

Establish benchmarks for safety, quality, and accessibility within the industry.

Provide Clarity:

Support industry stakeholders to align work activities with applicable regulations and end user requirements.

DISCLAIMER:

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KNOWLEDGEHUB: RAMS OWNERSHIP and SUBCONTRACTOR COMPLIANCE



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CHAMPION
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COMMUNITY
COMPLIANCE



QUESTION: CAN RAMS BE ISSUED UNDER THE PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR'S NAME IF WORK IS SUBCONTRACTED? YES!

Submitting RAMS under your own organisation's name is both acceptable and often essential to ensure a compliant approach to site safety management.

However, this responsibility should not be underestimated.

You must be confident that all **risk assessments and method statements** are accurate, current, and tailored to the specific site conditions.

Be it within active construction sites, high footfall retail areas, or elevated external facades, signage professionals frequently encounter complex operational risks that demand meticulous planning, coordination, and clear communication.

Robust project management - **underpinned by industry best practice and full regulatory compliance** - is essential to delivering consistent, compliant, and professional signage installations across the diverse and often challenging environments in which our industry operates.

RAMS form an essential baseline of safe working practices.

They outline how specific tasks will be implemented safely, providing reassurance to clients, contractors, and operatives alike. However, on projects involving subcontractors, questions frequently arise regarding who is responsible for producing the RAMS and where the legal accountability lies.

When a principal contractor or project lead submits RAMS under their own branding - even when subcontractors are delivering the works - they assume accountability for both the content of those documents and the safety practices on site.

This makes understanding the correct use, review, and integration of subcontractor RAMS a vital part of project planning and delivery.

IF THERE IS ANY UNCERTAINTY, OR CLARITY IS REQUIRED - IT IS ADVISABLE TO SEEK GUIDANCE FROM LEGAL OR HEALTH AND SAFETY PROFESSIONALS TO PROTECT YOUR ORGANISATION'S POSITION.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: Technical Guidance Note:
RAMS OWNERSHIP and SUB CONTRACTOR USE ON PROJECTS for more information.



FURTHER READING AND RESOURCES:

Managing Health and Safety in Construction (HSG150)
<https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/hsg150.htm>

The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 (CDM 2015)
REQUIRE PRINCIPAL CONTRACTORS TO COORDINATE AND MANAGE ALL HEALTH AND SAFETY MATTERS ON SITE.
<https://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/cdm/2015/index.htm>

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If there is any uncertainty, or clarity is required - it is advisable to seek guidance from legal or health and safety professionals to protect your organisation's position.

This guide serves as a **practical resource** for both installers and project managers, providing clear guidance on best practices, and supporting enhance workplace safety, reduce liability, and lead with integrity.



RAMS_EXPLAINED RISK ASSESSMENT METHOD STATEMENT

A **RISK ASSESSMENT** identifies the **hazards** associated with a task, who may be affected, and what controls are needed to minimise **risk**.

The **METHOD STATEMENT** complements this by detailing how the work will be performed **step by step**, including tools, materials, access equipment, sequencing, and emergency procedures.

