



CPD in Property

Membership Support Factsheet 33



 +44 (0)20 3745 6463
 info@cpdstandards.com
 The Old Station, Moor Lane, Staines upon Thames,
TW18 4BB

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The CPD Standards Office

INDEPENDENTLY ACCREDITED CPD

www.cpdstandards.com





This factsheet looks into the CPD requirements and policies within the Building and Property sector.

The property industry is very diverse employing individuals across a range of sub-sectors including architecture, surveying, planning, investment and lettings.

In the property sector, CPD is not mandatory to be able to practice but depends on the profession an individual falls under. All the professionals who work within this industry such as Solicitors, Architects and Surveyors, are governed by their regulators outside of the sector with specific annual CPD requirements.

This means there are many different professional bodies and institutes that professionals can align themselves to, and CPD then becomes mandatory to maintain their membership.

There is a huge movement to make this sector more structured and professional, a recent report by RoPA (Regulation of Property Agents) has outlined why professionals in this space should be regulated and the topic is currently being discussed in Parliament.

CPD FOR LANDLORDS

At the National Residential Landlord Association, accredited members need to obtain and log at least 5 points of standard CPD per year (as well as five core points every five years). These five core points are completed to achieve accreditation and must be redone every five years.

CPD FOR ESTATE AND LETTING AGENTS

In the UK at the moment, there is no overarching regulator and there is no legal requirement for Estate/Letting Agents to align themselves with a regulator. Other regulated professionals such as Solicitors and Surveyors pick up the areas of house sales or lettings that Estate Agents cannot.



KEY PROFESSIONAL BODIES

- Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) - CIOB members should undertake CPD which is relevant to their professional role. Members are required to undertake a minimum of 10 points under the theme of ethical practice in each subscription year. CIOB audits a representative sample of members each year and failure to provide a record could lead to disciplinary proceedings.
- Property Mark - All members of PropertyMark are required to complete and record at least **12 hours of CPD activity per year** with a minimum of 4 hours obtained through educational events, e.g. events or courses
- Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) - RICS require all members to undertake a minimum of **20 hours of CPD** per year. All members must maintain a relevant and current understanding of their professional and ethical standards during a rolling three-year period.
- Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) - All RTPI members are expected to commit to CPD that develops professional expertise, and must undertake **50 CPD hours over a 2-year period**. Individuals must reflect on the value of their learning and submit their CPD records when requested by the RTPI.

IN THE WIDER FIELD...

Historically CPD emerged in the 1990s for the property, construction and building industries.

Despite many industry professional institutes being founded in the 19th century, there was a movement in the 1990s as the traditional professions - including Architects, Surveyors, Town Planners and Building Engineers - encouraged professionalism, lifelong learning and keeping qualifications up to date.

This was also driven by the wider national trends of the government and national skills bodies advocating that continuous learning in these fields are crucial and non-negotiable. For example, No one wants an architect to design their home renovations if they aren't up to date with building legislation, health and safety, etc.

The mass movement towards CPD practices was also driven by increased demand for people going to universities and a demand for post-graduate learning. Particularly as these traditional professions were becoming heavily regulated.

As the RICS, CIOB, RTPI and others began to introduce the practice of CPD as an annual mandatory membership requirement for individuals, the property sector began to follow suit.



Today the key difference between estate and letting agents, compared to architects, surveyors etc is that careers in the property sector are not regulated. Therefore, an individual estate agent does not have to be registered with a professional institute to work, and as a result, CPD is not obligatory in this sector.

However, over the past 5 years, there have been larger movements to professionalise this sector and the CPD Standards Office predicts that this area will continue its efforts towards regulation.

We hope you have found this factsheet helpful.