

SSIP Scheme Comparison

Safety Schemes in Procurement (SSIP) accreditation is one of the most commonly requested pieces of evidence in tenders and PQQs. Here's how the main schemes compare.

At a glance

Scheme	Best suited for	What's typically assessed	Recognition
CHAS	Contractors and subcontractors of any size	Health and safety policy, risk management, and general competence.	Widely recognised by local authorities and housing associations.
SMAS Worksafe	SMEs and trades businesses	Health and safety documentation and accident/incident records.	Popular in construction; recognised across other SSIP member schemes.
Constructionline	Larger contracts and public sector work	Health and safety, plus financial standing, insurance, and business information (higher, "Gold" level).	Required by many public sector frameworks and Tier 1 main contractors.
Achilles (Building Confidence / UVDB)	Utilities, infrastructure, and rail sectors	Detailed supply chain, compliance, and safety data.	Sector-specific; often mandatory for utilities and infrastructure work.

What "SSIP" actually means

SSIP is not a single certificate; it's an umbrella standard that a number of separate accreditation schemes are assessed against. Once you hold accreditation from one SSIP member scheme, most other member schemes will recognise it under "deemed to satisfy" reciprocity, rather than making you go through the full assessment again from scratch.

Choosing a scheme

- Check what your target clients or frameworks actually name in their tender documents; some public sector buyers specify a particular scheme.
- If you work across sectors, a widely recognised scheme like CHAS or SMAS Worksafe often gives the broadest reciprocal coverage.
- If you work in utilities, infrastructure, or rail, Achilles-based schemes are often the ones that matter, regardless of what else you hold.
- Constructionline's Gold level is worth the extra evidence requirements if you're regularly bidding for larger, public sector, or Tier 1 contracts.

What you'll need to have ready

Regardless of scheme, most SSIP assessments ask for the same core documents: a health and safety policy, evidence of risk assessment processes, accident and incident reporting procedures, insurance certificates, and evidence of competence for the work you do. Having these in good order before you apply speeds up assessment considerably.

Smallbizbod prepares and manages SSIP applications and renewals, so the paperwork stops being the thing that holds a tender up. Book a free, no-obligation chat at www.smallbizbod.com.