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**Health and Safety issues should not stop Enjoyment!**

One often hears stories in the press where Health and Safety concerns seem to have been taken to extremes e.g. banning the playing of conkers without safety glasses or the cancelling of outdoors activities. Now the Health and Safety Commission have hit back and are asking people to concentrate on real risks and stop focusing on trivial risks and petty health and safety. The HSE have recently launched a set of key principles for sensible risk management. Bill Callaghan, Chair of HSC, said “I’m sick and tired of hearing that health & safety’ is stopping people doing worth while and enjoyable things when at the same time others are suffering real harm and even death as a result of mismanagement at work. Some of the ‘health and safety’ stories are just myths. There are also some instances where health and safety concerns are used as an excuse to justify unpopular decisions such as the closing of facilities. But behind many of the stories, there is at least a grain of truth – someone really has made a stupid decision. We’re determined to tackle all three. My message is that if you are using health and safety to stop everyday activities – get a life and let others get on with theirs.”

According to the Health and Safety Executive, sensible risk management is about:

- Ensuring that workers and the public are properly protected
- Providing overall benefit to society by balancing benefits and risks, with a focus on reducing real risks – both those which arise more often and those with serious consequences

- Enabling innovation and learning, not stifling them
- Ensuring that those who create risks manage them responsibly and understand that failure to manage real risks responsibly is likely to lead to robust action
- Enabling individuals to understand that as well as the right to protection, they also have to exercise responsibility.

Whereas sensible risk management is not about:

- Creating a totally risk free society
- Generating useless paperwork mountains
- Scaring people by exaggerating or publicising trivial risks
- Stopping important recreational and learning activities for individuals where risks are managed
- Reducing protection of people from risks that cause real harm and suffering

If you would like further information on the sensible management of risks please visit [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)

**The role of ISO Standards**

A recent survey by the International Standards Organisation (ISO) shows the important role played by ISO Standards in globalisation and trade. At the end of 2005, the Quality Management System standard - ISO 9001:2000 was used in 161 countries with over three quarters of million certificates issued. This is an increase of 18% over the 2004 figure. The environmental standard ISO14001 shows an even greater growth of 24% and is now used by 138 countries. The standards are not just for manufacturing industries and nearly 33% of ISO 9001:2000



certificates and 31% of ISO 14001 certificates in 2005 being issued to service businesses.

The principle findings of the survey are available from [www.iso.ch](http://www.iso.ch)

### **New Environmental Standard**

A new standard in the 14000 series of environmental standards has been released. **ISO 14063:2006, Environmental management – Environmental communication – Guidelines and examples**, aims to help organisations communicate their views and explain the environmental implications of their activities to their stakeholders. W. Gary Wilson, the chair of the working group, said, “The huge and ever-growing global interest in the environment means that communicating environmental performance is both relevant and important, requiring particularly clear and transparent communication. The new standard has been designed to assist any organisation in the development of an environmental communication – no matter how simple or complex”.

The standard can be used by organisations large and small and with or without the ISO 14001 certificate. For further details visit [www.iso.ch](http://www.iso.ch)

### **Security for the Supply Chain**

There is an ever increasing growth in global trade and with this an ever increasing need for supply chain security. ISO have published best practice guidelines for implementing supply chain security. **ISO/PAS 28001:2006, Security management systems for the supply chain – Best practices for implementing supply chain security – Assessments and plans** will allow organisations to establish reasonable levels of security and help them make better risk management decisions. **ISO/PAS 28004:2006, Security management systems for the supply chain – Guidelines for the implementation of ISO/PAS 28000** will help users to implement this standard. Captain Charles Pirsall, Chair of the committee, said, “Disruptions to international trade can have drastic consequences for everybody.

International problems truly need international solutions to mitigate potential threats. Unilateral government actions won't work and are not enforceable globally. ISO is providing a focal point that provides industry with a clear, uniform global approach for implementation of supply chain security requirements. The new documents are designed to enable better monitoring of supply flows, to combat smuggling and to respond to the threat of piracy and terrorist attacks, as well as to create a safe and secure international supply chain regime”.

For more information on these documents visit [www.iso.ch](http://www.iso.ch)

### **Eurocodes**

New Eurocodes are to replace British Standards in construction over the next four years. The Eurocodes comprise 58 design standards and cover 10 areas: the basis of structural design, actions, concrete, steel, composite steel and concrete, timber, masonry, aluminium, geotechnical and seismic design. BSI has developed an on-line learning package to help people understand the new codes and their implementation.

If you would like further information on the Eurocodes and the BSI e-learning tool visit [www.bsi-global.com/eurocodes](http://www.bsi-global.com/eurocodes).

### **Energy**

The UK Government have recently published the Third Annual Report on the implementation of the 2003 White Paper. The annual report fulfils the Government's commitment to report each year on progress made towards the Government's goals for energy policy. The Environmental Secretary, David Miliband said “Progress has been strong over the past twelve months, with renewables breaking through the 4% barrier for the first time, well on our way to our aim of securing 20% of electricity from renewable sources. And on energy efficiency, we are working to help householders and businesses curb the amount of energy they use – helping the environment and cutting bills.”



The report is available on line at <http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/policy-strategy/energy-white-paper>.

### **Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)**

The WEEE directive aims to address the environmental impact of electrical and electronic equipment and promote its separate collection when it becomes waste. Producers will have to finance treatment and recycling/recovery of separately collected WEEE in the UK to specified treatment standards and recycling/recovery targets.

The Energy Minister, Malcolm Wicks recently gave businesses a clear timetable for implementing the EC WEEE Directive. He launched the Government's consultation on the key proposals to be introduced from 1 July 2007. The key proposals are:

- A national Distributor Takeback Scheme which will establish a network of Designated Collection Facilities enabling consumers to return their used items for recycling or reuse
- Obligatory registration for producers through approved compliance schemes
- Authorised treatment facilities, which will process WEEE and provide evidence to producers on the amount of WEEE received for treatment
- Accredited reprocessing/recycling facilities who will provide evidence of reprocessing to producers
- An end-of-year settlement to ensure producers are able to meet their obligations via an 'exchange' system
- A voluntary approach for producers to show the cost of handling historical WEEE.

If you would like further details visit [www.dti.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.dti.gov.uk/consultations)

### **IQA and NHS Improvement**

The IQA (Institute of Quality Assurance) has begun a new round of initiatives aimed at supporting NHS Healthcare professionals with a training programme for reducing human error. They are also calling on the Government to review its attempts to monitor and improve service delivery in the NHS. Frank Steer,

Director General of the IQA said 'A new approach should draw on quality improvement techniques used by world-class organisations. We know what works and what does not, it's not a mystery. The IQA can support and train healthcare professionals to gain insight into simple, practical ways of reducing waste and risk and giving patients more of what they want.'

For further information visit [www.iqa.org](http://www.iqa.org)

### **Store Rage?**

A recent survey commissioned by the IQA showed that UK consumers are fed up with poor service. More than two thirds of those polled react to poor quality of consumer care by going somewhere else with 59% unlikely ever to return to a provider who let them down. Another 65% of respondents said that they would tell others about their experiences of poor service and just 7% said that the quality of service provided by UK businesses was very good. Frank Steer, Director General of the IQA said "Achieving quality is a company wide goal. Consumers in the UK have come to demand a high level of quality, both in the products they buy and the service they receive. Businesses which fall short of the standard required will suffer – and this survey shows that consumers won't forgive or forget poor quality.

For further information visit [www.iqa.org](http://www.iqa.org)