

ENVIRONET NEWS

The electronic newsletter for improved environmental and health & safety performance

In this Issue:

- Integration of ISO Management Systems
- CROW Act
- Health & Safety Training
- Acoustics in Schools (BB 93)

Dear All

Welcome to our 11th Issue of Environet News - hope you find it of interest.

Thanks to all who have contributed to Environet's success over the last year. We look forward to working with you in 2004.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas & prosperous New Year.

Best Regards



Nic Seal

Integrated Management Systems - KISS or fail

Keep it Simple & Succinct!

Many companies certified to the ISO 9000:1994 Standard will have recently upgraded their certification to the ISO 9000:2000 standard, to meet the Dec 2003 deadline. Some have taken this opportunity to reap the benefits of integrating their Quality, Environmental and Health & Safety Management Systems.

(Continued on page 2)



CROW Act - "right to roam" on private land?

Campaigners for the 'right to roam' won an apparent victory when the Government passed the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000, which in a central provision states that:

"Any person is entitled ... to enter and remain on any access land for the purposes of open-air recreation."

Access land is essentially 'open countryside' of mountain, moor, heath and down, and the Countryside Agency (CA) and Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) have been busy in the last few years creating 'draft maps' of all the land they consider to be eligible for access. Needless to say, some landowners have been less than pleased with their land being made eligible for public access. Owners, and anyone else with an interest in the land can make representations on draft maps, especially if the land appears not to qualify for CRoW mapping.

Environet, through our ecologist Dr.



Mark McLellan, has been assisting land agents Strutt and Parker in assessment of land mapped under the CRoW Act.

In 2003, we have romped downland in Kent and Wiltshire, heath in Hampshire, and moor in Yorkshire, to assess, upon behalf of landowners, the criteria for eligibility of their land under CROW. With our assistance some sites have been removed from the draft maps altogether.

Comments Dr. McLellan *"Some of the sites I have seen this year have been neither eligible nor appropriate for open access, and I have been pleased to assist with their removal; one site was a lady's back garden arboretum! Other sites have been clearly in the spirit of the Act, and some have been borderline, and will be decided at the provisional stage."*

Environet will be continuing our work on this project with Strutt and Parker into 2004.

HEALTH & SAFETY TRAINING - a course specifically designed for busy employers in SMEs wanting to comply with health & safety law quickly and inexpensively

Due to demand from employers in small to medium sized companies wanting no nonsense advice on compliance with health & safety law, Environet is delivering one day interactive seminars starting in January 2004.

At the end of the course delegates will have:

- ♦ A good understanding of health & safety law and how it affects them
- ♦ Prepared a Health & Safety Policy document in accordance with HSE's

"Stating your Business" INDG 324

- ♦ Prepared a risk assessment of their organisation's undertaking in accordance with HSE's "Five Steps to Risk Assessment" INDG 163
- ♦ Produced an Action Plan to reduce risk.

For further information on this and other courses please contact us on **01932 868700**.



(Continued from page 1)

One such company is Verdant Group Plc, a dynamic and growing company in the municipal services sector based in Sevenoaks.

David Maidman, Verdant's Contract Portfolio Manager states:

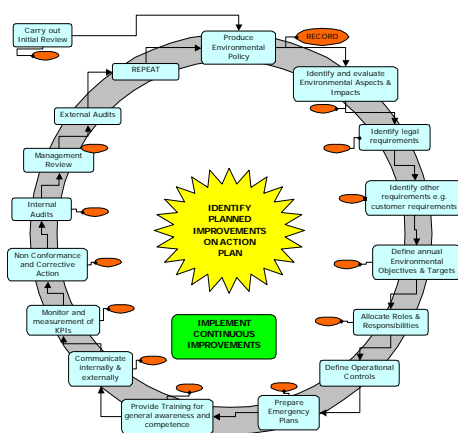
"Environet has helped us achieve Quality, Environmental, and Health & Safety certification to the ISO 9000:2000, ISO 14001:1996 and OHSAS 18000 standards.

"I have been very impressed by their ability to understand our brief and company ethos, and in the development and implementation of the Management System. The benefits of improved operational control and procedural standardisation are now clear to see.

"I'm sure the "continuous improvements" to the quality of our service and to the controls on environmental and health & safety issues will be beneficial to us, our customers and all our other company stakeholders".

Environet is currently helping other companies achieve ISO 14001 and we would be pleased to show any company considering this route how we can provide a clear and succinct EMS, based upon flow charted procedures, in a most cost effective manner.

A Typical ISO 14001 Management Cycle

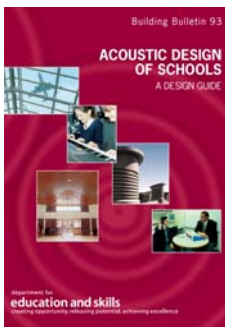


Future Environet News Articles
 If you have an environmental product or service that you think may be of interest to our clients, contact us: ed@environet-uk.co.uk

ACOUSTICS IN SCHOOLS
New statutory guidance in BB93

Environet has recently assisted the design team for the extension to Ashton Park School in Bristol on the new acoustic requirements contained in BB93.

In July 2003 the requirements contained within Building Bulletin 93 became mandatory in order to comply with building regulations.



BB 93 supersedes previous guidance contained in BB 87.

Because BB 87 was not mandatory, in the past many recommendations in BB 87 were not incorporated into school design due

to cost and other constraints, resulting in acoustic conditions that were far from perfect.

In particular, there are many examples of classrooms with reverberation problems, which make speech intelligibility difficult, if not impossible.

BB 93 is a welcome instrument to those wanting to improve the learning environment, but perhaps not to those managing the construction budget - estimates of 10% uplift to the total construction cost have been banded about.

From our experience, acoustics and noise control has not experienced the attention it deserves, probably because it cannot be seen. Rectification of acoustic problems is seldom easy, and tends to be expensive, and so getting it

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right the first time should always be the objective.

Some might therefore say that the mandatory requirements in BB 93 are a good thing, even though they incur additional costs in design and construction. We support that school of thought.

NEED HELP WITH ENVIRONMENTAL and/or HEALTH & SAFETY LEGISLATION?

Enviro-Compliance, a tailor made register and database of legislation relevant to your company may be the answer. Produced by Environet with quarterly updates, it helps you stay ahead of the law. See our website or call 01932 868700 for further information.

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
Policy, Initial Review, Strategy, Legal Compliance, Management Systems (EMAS, ISO 14001), IPPC, Auditing & Training, Reporting

HEALTH & SAFETY MANAGEMENT
Safety Reviews, Legal Compliance, Risk Assessment, Monitoring, Management Systems (OHSAS 18000), Auditing & Training

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING
Contaminated Land, Acoustics / Noise, Energy Efficiency, Environmental Assessment of Buildings, Sick Building Syndrome, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Systems

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Noise, Ecology, Hydrology, Air quality

WASTE MANAGEMENT
Waste Minimisation Audits, Compliance/"Duty of Care" Audits

TRAINING
Environmental Awareness Seminars, Health & Safety Training



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