

ENVIRONET NEWS

The electronic newsletter for improved environmental and health & safety performance

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We are now into our sixth successful year of trading with promising prospects for the environmental consultancy sector as the momentum for environmental improvement within business gathers pace.

The "so called" recession has hit some of our customers, particularly in the manufacturing sector and there is clear evidence of budgetary constraints on some environmental initiatives, which have undoubtedly affected us.

In order to remain as cost effective as possible, all of our work is now carried out from our office in Surrey, allowing us to remain extremely competitive in our field.

It is very encouraging that our client list grows as does the volume of repeat and referral business - even since September! By all accounts a sign that we are doing things right - offering a professional and competitive service.

Any comments on this publication or ideas on innovative environmental goods and services that could be included in our next issue would be warmly welcomed.

Thanks to all of you who have supported us since our incorporation in 1996.

Nic Seal (Director)

EMS - focus on Key Performance Indicators

The ISO 14001 Environmental Management System is gaining in popularity and there is clear evidence of supply chain pressure being exerted from above. There are now 2,500 certifications in the UK, the greatest number per country in the world, bar Japan with 7,155.

For those of you not familiar with ISO 14001 there is a requirement to set environmental objectives and targets based upon the organisations' significant impacts. These targets should be quantifiable and should be measured to ensure that the prescribed objectives are being met.

This leads to the identification of a series of key "Performance Indicators" or KPIs.

*"If you can't
measure it
you can't manage it!"*

When deciding which KPIs to use the following guidance may be of use:

- Review what data you already collect and establish whether it can be used
- Consider what other relevant data could be obtained relatively easily
- Establish most reliable denominators - for example total energy consumption as an indicator would be useless in an energy intensive manufacturing plant if not considered as total energy/volume output
- Above all, do not create KPIs purely for the sake of it. Poorly conceived KPIs can give misleading trend lines, data collection can be expensive and the benefits of doing so will be marginal at best.

A set of Performance Indicators has been developed by the waste industry in order to standardise the reporting requirements and to allow comparisons to be made from site to site and company to company.

Worth a look at www.green-alliance.org.uk

NEW Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001

These new regulations apply where more than 200 litres of oil is stored above ground at industrial, commercial or institutional sites except in certain circumstances and include all types of oil, with the exception of waste oil.

They set down certain requirements regarding the construction and installation of the tank and its associated accessories and for secondary containment.

The regulations apply from:

- 1 March 2002, for new oil stores
- 1 September 2003, for existing oil stores "at significant risk". In general, an oil store will be considered to be at "significant risk" if it is located within 10 metres of a watercourse or 50 metres of a well or borehole
- 1 September 2005, for all remaining existing oil stores

We have acted for a number of insurance companies recently following oil leakage / spillage from inadequate storage tanks. It is one of the most frequent causes of water and ground contamination, and often results in large clean-up costs and prosecution under the Water Resources Act 1991.



The above shows a spectacular secondary containment collapse around a 30,000 litre diesel tank, which was blown down in the wind. Imagine how it would have fared if the tank had collapsed!

The regulations will hopefully prevent this type of malpractice in the future.

Environmental Aspects & Impacts in the NHS

Environet works with a number of NHS Trusts, in particular in the areas of identification and assessment of environmental risk.

The NHS Controls Assurance Standard requires NHS Trusts to manage their environmental impacts by:

- Establishing accountability arrangements
- Producing an Environmental Policy and Strategy
- Carrying out a Preparatory Review
- Identifying significant environmental risks
- Developing environmental programmes
- Ensuring employees have the appropriate skills and providing additional training where there is a need
- Developing key performance indicators (KPIs) for future measurement of environmental performance
- Auditing and reviewing the EMS at specified periods



UPDATE! Legionellosis and Legionnaire's Disease

In our May 1999 Newsletter (Issue 4) we reported on a case of Legionnaires Disease allegedly emanating from a company's wet cooling tower in Somerset that resulted in the death of 3 people. For details see our website www.environet-uk.co.uk.

It is understood that the company and the MD deemed responsible have been charged and face trial this year.

The HSE has revised its guidance by issuing a new **NEW ACOP!** Approved Code of Practice with Guidance (L8). The document replaces the 1995 ACOP and technical guidance HSG (70).

Now may be an opportune moment to review those COSHH risk assessments and control measures!

Proposed Amendments to Health & Safety Law

The Health and Safety Commission (HSC) has issued consultative proposals to amend the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 and the Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations 1997.

The proposals concentrate on the 'civil liability exclusion', which applies to both the "Management" and "Fire" Regulations.

Bosses could face jail over staff car crashes

A crackdown on accidents will make firms responsible for workers on the road. John O'Donnell reports

AFTER two of Promotional's sales staff were involved in serious car crashes, the company decided to take a closer look at the company's records. The sales manager of East High Southampton, announced the risks that its workers were taking and made a list of safety rules. "We found out that we were exposing the staff on the road to more, less than those in the factory — the place you normally associate with high risk. That made us think. Some alterations to the business introduced a rigorous driving programme. Within six months of joining the company or face the car. Promotional gave about 2000 per person for the training. Car users are issued with a list of safety rules and the company monitors staff regularly to help improve their driving." Promotional

Extract from Sunday Times 2001

The proposed amendment would remove the exclusion from both sets of Regulations for breach of statutory duty towards employees. The consequence of this would allow an employee to bring a claim for damages against their employer for injury or illness they had suffered as a result of their employer's failure to comply with the "Management" and "Fire" Regulations. In addition, a right to bring a damages claim following a workplace fatality following an employer's failure to comply with both sets of regulations would also be available if the exclusion was removed.

The document points out that the consultation exercise is to establish how – not whether – the amendments should be made. The consultation follows correspondence between the European Commission (EC) and the UK Government over the exclusion, in context of the UK's implementation of the health and safety 'Framework Directive' (89/391/EEC).

Six additional proposals for relatively minor amendments to the "Management" and "Fire" Regulations are also included within the document.

The document can be downloaded from the HSE website at www.hse.gov.uk/condocs/

For further information on our update service on Environmental and Health & Safety legislation please get in touch.

NEW Environmental Reporting - New Govt. guidelines

A growing number of the top FTSE 250 companies now include environmental reporting either within their annual financial accounting reports or separately. This demonstrates the importance of environmental stewardship that Boards of Directors perceive is expected by their shareholders.

"From 2002 we will vote against the resolution to adopt the report and accounts of any FTSE 100 company that does not report on its environmental performance and abstain for any non reporters in high risk sectors in the next 250."

Morley Fund Management, which manages the equivalent of 2.5 per cent of the FTSE All Share Index.

Extract from report

This trend is certainly being encouraged by the Government, and it has been muted that legislation will enforce

Environmental Reporting if the business community does not grasp the nettle voluntarily.

The Govt. has issued guidance (Nov. 2001) on producing Environmental Reports, backed by the CBI. External communication is seen as an essential element in working towards "sustainable development" and helps to create transparency between the company and its stakeholders.

For a copy go to www.defra.gov.uk

Environmental Information on the Net

There is a growing valuable resource of information on the internet - the problem is how to sort the good stuff from the bad. The problem of information overload has never been so acute. The subscription services are likely to be more up to date than those that are plastered on the net for free.

A good free source is however available from DEFRA and other govt. departments, including the EA.

If you want something researched, why not commission us and we'll take the pain away from you!

An update on Contaminated Land liabilities will be included in our NEXT ISSUE.

CLIENT TESTIMONIALS

"Being Europe's largest and fastest growing health and fitness chain, detailed site evaluation work done in the quickest amount of time is of paramount importance. Environet's professionalism and technical work is exceptional, making the company a pleasure to work with."

Christopher Bevan, (Development Surveyor) - Fitness First Plc

"Environet provide us with an efficient, astute and commercial service across a wide range of difficult situations"

Mark Rothwell (Investment Partner) - Alder King Property Consultants

"Environet's practical, proactive and professional approach has been instrumental in delivering the benefits of improved environmental performance. Repeat business is guaranteed if you continue to deliver in the way you have for us"

Matthew Walter (Director) - SMS Business Systems Ltd

"Environet provides us with quick and detailed analyses of contamination liability for sites we are marketing and managing. All in all, a very good service"

Simon Kitching (Director) - Millar Kitching Ltd

"Your strategic assistance has transformed our Health & Safety Management system into an asset that is now embraced by all of our workforce. Thanks to your skills in balancing legal obligations against commercial considerations, and your ability to communicate clearly, we are certain that our health & safety performance will continue to improve - with of course your continued help!"

Alan Gibbons (Technical Director) - NCMT Ltd

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A Strategic Approach to Environmental and Health & Safety Management

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Policy, Initial Review, Strategy, Legal Compliance, Management Systems (EMAS, ISO 14001), 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

Allow us to help you benefit from:

- ◆ **Reduced legal liability**
- ◆ **Increased operating efficiency**
- ◆ **Enhanced corporate image**

by improving your environmental and health & safety performance.

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