



IMPACT

HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUE 1

The proven benefits of OHSAS 18001

OHSAS 18001 certification has a positive impact on businesses of all sizes and in all industry sectors.

Far from being a cosmetic marketing tool, the real and proven benefits of certification are plain to see. The fundamentals of certification will make your company more efficient and increase your reputation and competitive edge.

In many industries it has already become a basic requirement for doing business.

Increased safety awareness, efficiency, a real strengthening of your position in the marketplace and increased revenue are direct results of achieving certification. Don't just take our word for it – the following clients are proof of the benefits.

Keeping Ahead of the Pack

Established in 1979, Brewpack brought together expertise from the brewing industry and precision engineering, and is now one of the UK's leading specialists in the design, manufacture and installation of conveyor systems to the bottling, canning and food packaging industries.

As a result of regular updates within recent health & safety legislation and the drive towards a common industry standard for contracting companies, Brewpack is working to promote the highest standards of professionalism and safe working practices for all employees.

Matt Gannon, Managing Director, admitted that their original reason for seeking certification was to use it as a selling tool. Although, since their client base includes prestigious companies such as Coca Cola, Budweiser and GlaxoSmithKline, their standards were already high.

Matt said, "Although the standard doesn't fundamentally change the way that we do things, we found that major clients, such as Carlsberg, asked us whether we were considering certifying. We realised that it was only a matter of time before others began asking. Therefore, we wanted to be ahead of the pack. We receive a lot of competency and assessment forms,



"I would have no hesitation in recommending IMSM's services."

most of which contain the same questions, but in a different order and layout. OHSAS 18001 answers a lot of these questions and is a time-saving exercise and a benchmark standard."

Matt says that they see definite improvements as a result of implementation and feels that it has improved customer perceptions.

Although Brewpack's existing manuals and systems were already very comprehensive, IMSM made it clear that the certification process would be straightforward.

Matt concluded by saying, "We chose IMSM because they were our existing ISO 9001 auditors and had proved extremely competent. I would have no hesitation in recommending their services."

www.brewpack.ltd.uk

Certification Helps to Seal Company's Reputation

Established in 1992, Sealant and Construction Services Ltd is a company comprising five specialist divisions, sub-contracting to businesses of all sizes and industry sectors and although operating primarily within the UK, is open to opportunities further afield.

The company now employs between 40 and 50 people making good health and safety essential.

Richard King, Health, Safety and Environmental Officer explained that SCS had always taken these issues seriously and that they had already incorporated an efficient working system. "We applied for OHSAS 18001 certification as a way of showing that we took our duties seriously. Along with ISO 9001 and ISO 14001, we were able to enhance our reputation further within the industry. Combining the new system with ours makes sure that we move forward in the right way with the benefit of a third party helping and overlooking our progress annually."

Richard continued, "We now have a well rounded, simple and efficient health and safety system that is easy to incorporate. It is surprising how impressed major companies are when we produce the certificate at the tendering stage."

SCS chose IMSM to guide them towards achieving the standard

because they had already helped the company achieve ISO 9001.

Richard concluded, "Through the auditing process, IMSM helped us streamline our business practices by enabling us to work with a system that best suits us. We identify any shortcomings at the early stages before any major problems arise that could cause lost revenue, lost man hours or even damage our reputation within the industry. We would definitely recommend IMSM. We have a good relationship with them because they provide a very efficient, professional and friendly service and we look forward to continuing that relationship for many years to come."

www.scsukltd.co.uk



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International Management Systems Marketing Ltd was founded in 1994 to provide businesses with the practical expertise to add value through quality systems and efficiency. From its base in the UK, IMSM Ltd has developed a strong network in Europe, USA, Canada, South Africa and Australia.

IMSM's fully trained team of auditors hold recognised IRCA (International Register of Certified Auditors) qualifications.

As an active member of the European Foundation for Quality Management the organisation is itself continually assessed to ensure it delivers its promises.

To date, IMSM has helped more than 5,500 organizations around the world to achieve management standards.

GOING FORTH CONFIDENTLY WITH HEALTH AND SAFETY



"...our training has become more efficient, covering more subjects, helping to maintain low accident levels..."



Forth demolition, a family run business, based in Leith, Edinburgh, currently employs a staff of 19. The company's principal market is property developers, landowners and builders, supplying labour, machine hire, consultation work, full demolition and site clearances.

Method and Procedures Director, Stephen McCann Jnr, explained that the decision to go for OHSAS 18001 was based on their desire to enhance the company's standing as a safe and

competent demolition contractor, in addition to the ISO 9001 that they had already achieved. "ISO 9001 would help give some structure to our overall running of the company, thus OHSAS 18001 would help structure our safety training, which although comprehensive, was somewhat disorganised."

Since implementing the standard, Forth Demolition's safety training spend has decreased, as all training courses are scheduled in advance

without affecting the overall performances of the company's on site staff. Stephen continued, "It has also improved the performance of our staff. With a better guide on the changing legislations we are in a stronger position to concentrate on training pertaining to those changes, as opposed to covering old ground again. In brief, our training has become more efficient, covering more subjects, helping to maintain low accident levels and increasing awareness in safety across the board."

"I do believe this gives added credibility to our company, because an independent auditor has to give an evaluation on the company every year. This prevents companies from attaining the certificate and immediately disregarding the system. To have certification that a company is safe and professional gives our clients confirmation that

we are a bona fide demolition company and not 'cowboys' as was associated with demolition contractors in the past."

Initially Forth were not interested in implementing the system. However, Stephen became more interested when he saw the ISO 9001 logo displayed throughout Bangkok airport. He surmised that a certificate from a global organisation could only assist the company. The director later decided to go for both ISO 9001 and OHSAS 18001 in advance of Forth Demolition's entrance into the NFDC (National Federation of Demolition Contractors).

Stephen's final comments on IMSM? "The service provided by IMSM was excellent and only last week I recommended IMSM to another demolition company, which also deals in asbestos removal." www.forthdemolition.com

Taking Health and Safety a Degree Higher...

"We knew that sooner or later our customers would ask us whether we were certified."

Celsius Environmental Services Ltd is a Portsmouth based service, maintenance and repair business. More accurately referred to as "Water Sourced Heat Pump Specialists", the company undertakes maintenance work for large hotels, office blocks and factories and Planned Preventative Maintenance companies in the UK.

One of the three directors, Ray Gatt, explained that their decision to implement the standard was based on the type of work that they undertake and the level of customer for whom they work. "We knew that sooner or later our customers would ask us whether we were certified. Initially, we implemented ISO 9001 and then opted for the bolt-on of OHSAS 18001 at a later date."

In terms of benefits, Ray explained that not only has it helped

to improve overall health and safety aspects, but also that it will potentially help the company to gain more prestigious customers. "Having this standard attached demonstrates to customers, in principle, that we know what we're doing. It has certainly made us more aware about following procedures correctly. It has also helped with staff training and makes us obliged to undertake it when we say we are going to do it."

Their only concerns were that once they were certified and were on a level playing field with their competitors that they might then be required to achieve another standard. However, in terms of the money invested in becoming certified, Ray says that if they gain just one more client as a result, then they feel it has been money well spent.

In praise of IMSM Ray said, "IMSM did the majority of the work and helped us to write everything up. Our assessor, David Mott, always came in when he said he would come in and explained aspects that I didn't fully understand. I would have no hesitation in recommending IMSM to other companies."

On the Road to Safety and Success

Ventbrook Traffic Management Ltd, based in the North West is at the forefront of Health & Safety. The company specialises in the control and management of temporary traffic management systems including, traffic control on major routes, contra flows and lane separators, traffic control using temporary traffic lights, barrier systems and road closures with signed diversion routes.

According to the statistics, traffic management is more dangerous than being based in Iraq. Therefore, acquiring recognised qualifications is imperative and assists in vendor selection, proving that the company has a structured approach to health and safety.

Director Garry Tetlow explained that they were offered OHSAS 18001 as a combined package with ISO 9001.

"We needed new standards to allow the company to progress to the next level of traffic management works, because we needed a National Highways Sector 12 scheme approval, which is based on ISO 9001 requirements. None of the other certification companies understood our requirements. IMSM's representative assured us that the consultant chosen to undertake our case had the relevant experience required. We are now fully qualified to the National Highways Sector 12A and 12B."

"The consultant appointed to us was exceptional in his approach to qualifying us through the various certifications. We would, without question, recommend him to any of our business associates."

www.ventbrook.com

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