

Groundwork Business Bulletin

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NATIONAL NEWS

New BSI Route to Environmental Standard

Wednesday 30th April saw the official launch of the new British Standard BS 8555 in London. This new standard is based on the 'Acorn Methodology' of gaining or working towards the Environmental Management System (EMS) ISO 14001.

Groundwork has been engaging businesses with the 'Acorn Methodology' over the past few months and following the pilot schemes, the new standard BS 8555 has been introduced to assist companies working towards achieving ISO14001 or EMAS. The Acorn Methodology offers a five-phase approach to implementing an EMS compatible with the international standard ISO14001, and a sixth phase compatible with European standard EMAS.

The phased approach is an essential part of the scheme. Many companies are put off going for certified systems by the apparent scale of the task. Acorn enables them to stop at any stage while still gaining accreditation for their achievements. *Groundwork are launching BS 8555 in the North West on 6th June 2003, see the 'Events' section of the Bulletin for further details, or to find out more contact Nicola Lace at Groundwork ☎ 0161 624 1444.*

RMC GREENLINK

This is a national schools programme developed by Groundwork to help build links between schools and local businesses. The project, with the help of funding from RMC Environment, helps raise the awareness of and educates children with regard to conservation, waste management and environmental issues.

A GREENLINK is a mutually beneficial relationship between a school and a business, involving one or more visits of 2-3 hours in duration.

There are potentially many benefits for your business, including raising your profile in the local community, gaining positive press coverage and helping young people to understand how their actions and behaviour impact on the local environment. *To arrange a GREENLINK, or for more information, contact Gemma Lee at Groundwork ☎ 0161 624 1444*

Landfill Space Diminishes but Waste Grows

New data shows that nearly 5.2 million tonnes of hazardous waste was consigned for disposal or recovery in England and Wales in 2000. This volume is set to increase as a revised classification list and new directives come on line.

However, the rising volume of hazardous waste will not be matched with an increased capacity for landfill. Under the Landfill Directive, landfill capacity for hazardous wastes will plummet after July 2004. The Environment Agency's indications are that fewer than 50 suitable sites will be prepared to accept hazardous wastes post 2004, compared with around 200 at present. *For assistance with waste management issues, including legislation and waste minimisation, contact Groundwork ☎ 0161 624 1444.*

Illegal Waste Burning Raises Temperatures at the Agency

Businesses who illegally burn their waste could see their reputation go up in smoke when they are landed with a court appearance. This stern Environment Agency stance follows hundreds of



complaints over the illegal burning of trade waste. Business owners are now being warned that they face a fine of up to £20,000 or two years in jail if convicted of an offence.

The burning of trade waste is an offence under the Environment Protection Act. Waste should be dealt with properly by a site licensed to dispose of or recycle it. The Agency is appealing to anyone who witnesses the illegal burning of trade waste to phone their 24-hour hotline on 0800 80 70 60.

Health & Safety Fines to be Increased

Maximum health and safety fines are likely to be increased, following the publication of the Health and Safety (Offences) Bill. The Bill proposes to raise the maximum fine available at magistrates' courts to £20,000 for most health and safety offences, plus the power to imprison offenders for up to 6 months.

Under the proposals, any breach of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 could result in the aforementioned sentencing. The Bill (no. 38) is available on the Internet at: www.legislation.hmso.gov.uk. To help minimise accidents, ill health and the possibility of health & safety fines in your business, access Groundwork's BEA services ☎ 0161 624 1444.

PUBLICATION

Safe Electricity at Work Practices

The second edition of this HSE guidance is relevant to managers and supervisors controlling or influencing the design, specification, selection, installation, commissioning, maintenance or operation of electrical equipment. The guide covers the hazards of electricity, the equipment, the four planning stages of safe working practices, and precautions to be taken when working live or isolated equipment. The guide is available for free from HSE Books on 01787 88 11 65.

EVENTS & TRAINING

BS 85 55 North West Launch

Groundwork will be launching the new British Standard BS 8555 at Manchester Airport on 10th June 2003 between 9.00am and 1.00pm. This new Standard details a phased approach to the Environmental Management System (EMS) ISO 14001, previously the 'Acorn Methodology'. This free event will include an introduction to EMS's and

BS 8555, case studies, workshops, questions and answer sessions and a buffet lunch.

CIEH Risk Assessment Course

Groundwork's successful Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) accredited Risk Assessment course will be held again on 10th June 2003 at Groundwork Oldham & Rochdale. The 1 day course will cover Risk Assessment principles, legislation and practice, and is available at the subsidised rate of £100 per delegate for BEA members and £125 for non-members.

COSHH Training

Groundwork shall be running the Principles of COSHH course, accredited by the CIEH on 19th June 2003, here at Groundwork. The responsibilities imposed by the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 1999 is the basis of this one day course, covering the definition and types of substances hazardous to health in the workplace, their health effects, COSHH assessments and control options. Deleagte fees are £100 per delegate for BEA members and £125 for non-members.

To book a place(s) on any of the above events, or for further information, please contact Jean Maxwell at Groundwork ☎ 0161 624 1444.

PROSECUTION

Waste of Money

A surplus paint trading company has had to pay in excess of £15,000 after being prosecuted for disposing of waste incorrectly. The company enlisted a special waste contractor to remove the waste, which was not registered with the Environment Agency, and who used incorrect paperwork. The paint company was attracted by the low price offered for the waste disposal, but when leaking drums were discovered at a warehouse, the waste was linked to the paint company, who were prosecuted for not ensuring that the waste was disposed of in line with the Special Waste Regulations.

For assistance with waste licensing, contact Groundwork ☎ 0161 624 1444

For more information on any of the articles, or any health, safety or environmental issue,

*please contact a member of the Environmental
Business Services team at Groundwork ☎
0161 624 1444.*