

Acorn: Accredited Inspection to BS8555



iema
INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT & ASSESSMENT



For further information on the
IEMA Acorn Scheme visit www.iema.net/acorn
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IEMA Acorn Scheme

Turning over a new leaf in EMS

The IEMA Acorn Scheme offers UKAS accredited recognition for organisations evaluating and improving their environmental performance through the phased implementation of an EMS in accordance with BS8555.

In addition, Acorn offers a unique feature whereby organisations can engage environmental performance indicator (EPI) reporting within the procurement process. This compliments the 'one size fits all' aspects of ISO14001 & EMAS and provides the opportunity to set environmental requirements in supplier contracts and monitor operational/product performance – a strength acknowledged by the Government in a recent EMS position statement published by DEFRA.

A system of independent inspection is central to providing recognition that an organisation has met the achievement criteria of a particular Acorn phase and continues to improve its environmental performance.

There are a number of Acorn Inspection Bodies offering external accreditation to the IEMA Acorn Scheme including LRQA, NQA and Global Certification with others going through the process.

Following successful inspection by an Acorn Inspection Body, organisations will be issued with an IEMA Acorn certificate and will need to be re-inspected every 12 months in order to maintain a valid certificate. Organisations that are issued with a certificate will also be entered onto the IEMA Acorn register.

Provided that the organisation maintains an IEMA Acorn certificate, it will retain its entry on the register, a central source of information on all organisations who are participating in the scheme. The register will contain the contact details of the organisation, its location, the phase level it has achieved and its industry sector. The register will provide an excellent means for successful companies to promote their environmental credentials; in addition, it will provide a valuable resource for those customers wanting to source products from suppliers who have demonstrated environmental performance improvement.

Case Study: STEM Project

The STEM project (www.stemproject.com) is a three year programme assisting 270 small/medium enterprises (SMEs) to achieve accredited inspection to Phase 3 of Acorn in Ireland/Northern Ireland.

Working with the UKAS accredited Acorn Inspection Body NQA, a number of SMEs have already achieved Phase 3. The SMEs included represent a diverse mix of business sectors ranging from an electricians and quarry to a hotel and a butchers!

