

INSTITUTE RESEARCH SIGNALS RISE IN CERTIFIED ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

The first half of 2007 has seen an upturn in the growth of EMS (Environmental Management Systems) being implemented in the United Kingdom.

Increases in both the number of certificates issued against the international standard for EMS, ISO 14001, and the number of EMS certifiers accredited by UKAS (United Kingdom Accreditation Service) indicates a growing market demand for environmental management and a greater awareness of environmental issues within the UK business sector.

Research conducted by the IEMA (Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment) in July of this year identified that over 6,000 ISO 14001 certificates are now active in the UK. Compared with data collected in January, the number of certificates has risen by 15% in the last six months!

This trend has also been reflected in the uptake of accredited inspection to BS 8555 through the IEMA's own Acorn registration scheme. Since the launch of the scheme in 2005, over 200 organisations have been inspected to Acorn with more than 100 organisations inspected in the first six months of 2007.

Catherine Golds, Environmental and Health and Safety Business Sector Manager, oversees the EMS certification at NQA (National Quality Assurance).

“The environment is a hot topic; each day news of how the environment is affected by human activities is being broadcasted and printed. Organisations across the UK are really recognising this and tackling their environmental performance through the use of an EMS and this is clearly reflected in the growth of ISO 14001 and the IEMA Acorn scheme.”

For more information on the IEMA and the Acorn Scheme, visit www.iema.net or call +44 (0)1522 540069.

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Notes:

1. The Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) is a non-for-profit membership organisation based in Lincoln, established to promote best practice standards in environmental management, auditing and assessment.
2. The Institute offers ongoing support to environmental professionals and aims to promote sustainability through improved environmental practice and performance.
3. With over 11,000 individual and corporate members, the IEMA is now a leading international membership-based organization, dedicated to the promotion of sustainable development and to the professional development of individuals involved in the environmental occupation across many industrial sectors.
4. ISO 14001, the international standard, specifies the requirements for an environmental management system. ISO 14001 provides an organization's management with a structured framework for identifying, evaluating, managing and improving its environmental performance.
5. The British Standard, BS 8555 provides guidance to all organizations seeking to implement a formal environmental management system and can be used as a route towards ISO 14001 and EMAS.
6. The IEMA Acorn Scheme offers accredited recognition for organisations evaluating and improving their environmental performance through the phased implementation of an EMS in accordance with the British Standard BS 8555.
7. For more information on UKAS (United Kingdom Accreditation Service), visit www.ukas.com.
8. For further details on NQA (National Quality Assurance), go to www.nqa.com.
9. For more information on the IEMA, its events, services, products, membership, training and publications, please visit www.iema.net.
10. For Press and Public Relations information regarding the IEMA, please contact Katrina Pierce on 01522 540069 or at k.pierce@iema.net.

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