



January 2007 Newsletter for the ROS Group of Companies

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Food Standards

ROS has recently been granted accreditation for ISO22000 from UKAS and can now offer assessment against this standard.

The uptake of *BS EN ISO 22000 Food safety management systems. Requirements for any organisations in the food chain* is growing steadily. The standard specifies the requirements for a food safety management system in the food chain where an organisation needs to demonstrate its ability to control food safety hazards in order to provide consistently safe end-products that meet both the requirements agreed with the customer and those applicable to food safety regulations. The standard can be used by:

- Primary food producers through to food manufacturers, including food processors
- Retail and food service outfits
- Feed producers
- Transport operators and storage operators
- Producers of equipment and packaging materials
- Producers of cleaning agents, additives and ingredients.

For further information on how ROS can help you contact your local office

EU Environmental Action – forwards a future Kyoto framework?

The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions aimed at addressing possible changes in the climate. In effect, the Kyoto Protocol requires the world's developed countries to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 5% from 1990 levels by 2008-2010. This is now not far way and the European Commission recently published a challenging package of proposals on energy strategy and climate change. This starts several months of activity leading up to the G8 Summit and could contain elements of a future Kyoto framework. Alistair Darling said, "The link between energy strategy and climate change is now incontrovertible and the need for concerted action is clear. These latest formative steps in the creation of a common energy policy for the EU will benefit consumers and businesses right across the continent and build on the developing international response to climate change."

David Milliband, the UK Environment secretary said, "Climate change is the greatest challenge that we face which is why it is right that the EU puts climate change at the heart of its energy strategy. The EU and other developed nations need to show leadership if we are to reach an international agreement on climate change. That's why we welcome the Commission's proposal for a 30% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by industrialised countries by 2020 – a target we have already proposed that the EU should itself adopt as part of an international agreement".



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As well as growing political actions and growing public support there is also a growing need to understand more about the science involved. Climate-chemistry interactions need to be understood in order to optimise any measures for the preservation of cleaner air or to slow down climate changes, as required in the Kyoto protocol and others. The air composition may change due to natural variations (volcanoes, natural biomass burning, lightning, etc.) or due to emissions (e.g., from surface and from air traffic). These changes affect the concentration of gases (such as methane, ozone, water vapour), aerosols and clouds, and, hence, impact climate. Climate change also affects atmospheric composition. For example, increased greenhouse gases cool the stratosphere and may lead to enhanced ozone depletion. Climate changes in the troposphere may cause more thunderstorms, more lightning, and more nitrogen oxides formation leading to more upper tropospheric ozone. Further, the observed, but unexplained apparent increase of the water vapour concentration in the stratosphere may in the future be as important as the past ozone change. These are just a few of many interaction processes, which are presently far from being understood and which require further research.

For further information visit www.gnn.gov.uk/environment

Transition to ISO 17021:2006 for Certification Bodies

Certification bodies have been given until 15 September 2008 to meet the ISO 17021: 2006 standard. This deadline has been set by IAF and the transition period is to allow the certification bodies to make any required changes to their procedures and identify any changes needed to their own quality management systems. The new standard *ISO/IEC 17021:2006 Conformity assessment –Requirements for the bodies providing audit and certification for management systems* is designed to increase confidence in management system certification. It also provides the option for the certification body to have its

own quality management system based on ISO9001:2000 verified by the accreditation body.

For further information visit www.iso.ch

ISO Standard to encourage gas powered vehicles

A new ISO standard *ISO 19078:2006, Gas cylinders – Inspection of the cylinder installation, and re-qualification of high pressure cylinders for the on-board storage of natural gas as a fuel for automotive vehicles* supports the continued growth in the market for gas powered vehicles. It provides guidance on maintaining gas cylinders for regulatory authorities, vehicle manufacturers and end users. There are currently over five million gas powered vehicles worldwide and the number is expected to rise.

For further information visit www.iso.ch

Greener Plastics

The UK are aiming to develop super strong light weight plastics that could be used for car doors and boat hulls and which biodegrades harmlessly at the end of its life. The DTI are providing funding towards the Combine project that is being led by the UK bio-plastic developer, NetComposites. The Combine project aims to develop these high performance plant-derived plastics by using innovative combinations of natural fibres and bio-plastics.

For further information visit www.gnn.gov.uk

End of Life Vehicles

From the 1 January car owners in Britain will be entitled to “free take-back” of their old vehicles, known as End of Life Vehicles (ELVs). The UK currently scraps around two million cars and vans each year and the new “producer responsibility” regulations are good news for car owners and the environment. Car manufacturers have set up a network of facilities that will take back their own makes of vehicle. A certificate of destruction will be issued to owners when the facilities receive a



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vehicle for treatment and this will allow deregistration of the vehicle from the DVLA database. Malcolm Wicks, Science and innovation Minister said, “ As 2007 gets underway, it is the perfect time to look at the ways we can all do our bit to help the environment. There is already an 85% target in place to recover scrap cars and the free take back will help us achieve it. “

To find out where to take back your car visit either www.autogreen.org or www.cartakeback.com .

Electrical Waste

As well as being able to return their scrap cars free of charge, new regulations will also allow British consumers to return electrical waste free of charge from the 1 July 2007. The regulations will:

- Enable consumers to dispose of their electrical waste free of charge at accessible and appropriate places. Consumers will start to see changes from July 2007, with new signage at their local council refuse centre, in shops and on new electrical products
- Give distributors the choice of how to meet their obligations under the Directive by either joining the Distributor Take-back Scheme or by offering customers in-store take back
- Allowing existing relationships currently managing electrical waste to continue
- Enable any operator of a designated collection facility to arrange with a producer compliance scheme (PCS) to have the electrical waste deposited at their site taken away for treatment and recycled by that PCS free of charge.
- Allow for and encourage the re-use of equipment after it has been discarded where possible
- Allows for the continued collection of old equipment at the same time of delivering new goods by retailers and some producers.

For further information visit www.gnn.gov.uk

Better Protection for Good Ideas

The UK government are planning some changes to the Intellectual Property law that will provide greater protection to British ideas. According to a government press release, measures include:

- Changes to copyright law to allow schools, universities and libraries to make the most of digital technologies, facilities distance learning and preserve valuable old materials
- Increase penalties for online infringement of copyright to 10 years so that they are in line with penalties for physical infringement of copyright
- Increasing awareness and support for UK business wanting to protect and enforce their IP at home and abroad
- The introduction by the Patent Office of a new fast-track registration system for Trade marks, and an accelerated grant process for all patents will benefit all companies operating in high tech areas with fast and short lifecycles.

For further information visit www.gnn.gov.uk

Standards for Carbon Offsetting

The British Government are to be the first country to set standards for ‘offsetting’ schemes. These schemes claim to neutralise the environmental impact of greenhouse gas emissions by paying towards projects such as tree-planting or providing low energy light bulbs for developing countries. The standard will allow people, who want to use these schemes, to tell whether the scheme they are planning to use really does take carbon out of the global carbon economy.

Metro News