



<b>Risk Management .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Guidance for Lone working .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Good news for Medical Laboratories.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>ISO Concept Database.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Updated WEEE Regulations .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Are you ‘Green’ at work? .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Safety Standard for Consumer Products .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>New Guidance on preventing harassment and violence in the work place .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>New BS Standard for Sustainability Management for Events .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Updated ISO Standard for electric vehicles.....</b>	<b>3</b>

**Risk Management**

Everyday businesses face risks and to survive and grow they need to manage those risks. At the moment, due to the current economic climate, many organisations are facing economic risks such as tax changes, currency exchange rate fluctuations and funding availability. There are political risks associated with changes in government and changes to regulatory and licensing controls; environmental risks such as bad weather, flooding and pollution, and legal risks such as unforeseen liabilities, loss of intellectual property rights and contractual failures.

Whilst it is unlikely that an organisation can remove these risks altogether, it is possible that through risk management the exposure to the risks can be reduced.

According to the Institute of Risk Management, *Risk Management is the process which aims to help organisations understand, evaluate and take action on all their risks with a view to increasing the probability of their success and reducing the likelihood of failure.* The Institute of Risk Management have produced a Risk Management Standard that is downloadable free of charge from their website [www.theirm.org](http://www.theirm.org).

In addition, a new ISO standard, ISO 31000:2009, Risk management – Principles and Guidelines, will also help organisations of all types and sizes to manage risk effectively. This standard provides principles, framework and a process for managing any form of risk in a transparent, systematic and credible manner within any scope or context. ISO are also releasing a new guide, ISO Guide 73:2009, Risk management vocabulary, which includes a

collection of terms and definitions relating to the management of risk.

By implementing ISO 31000, organisations can compare their risk management practices with an internationally recognised benchmark, providing sound principles for effective management. According to ISO, the ISO 31000 standard is designed to help organisations;

- Increase the likelihood of achieving objectives
- Encourage proactive management
- Be aware of the need to identify and treat risk throughout the organisation
- Improve the identification of opportunities and threats
- Comply with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and international norms
- Improve financial reporting
- Improve governance
- Improve stakeholder confidence and trust
- Establish a reliable basis for decision making and planning
- Improve controls
- Effectively allocate and use resources for risk treatment
- Improve operational effectiveness and efficiency
- Enhance health and safety performance, as well as environmental protection
- Improve loss prevention and incident management
- Minimise losses
- Improve organisational learning
- Improve organisational resilience

For further information on ISO31000, please visit [www.iso.ch](http://www.iso.ch)

**Guidance for Lone working**

More and more people are now working on their own, for example as home based employees.

Working on your own can create additional health and safety risks and many organisations provide their employees with lone worker devices (LWD). These are electronic devices that are able to communicate location, identity and voice to a monitoring centre.

There is now a Code of Practice for the provision of these lone worker device services – BS 8484. Providers of these services can use this Code of Practice to benchmark the services they provide and should enable both effective use of resources and maintenance of a good level of support for lone workers.

For more information on BS 8484 please visit [www.bsigroup.com](http://www.bsigroup.com)

### Good news for Medical Laboratories

The ISO (International Standards Organisation), the ILAC (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation) and the IAF (International Accreditation Forum) have announced that medical laboratories accredited to ISO 15189:2007 (a sector specific technical competence and management system standard) are recognised as meeting the management principles of ISO9001:2008.

Previously, accredited medical laboratories were often asked by their customers to gain certification to ISO9001 as well as the ISO 15189 certification. This will no longer be necessary reducing redundant, costly and time-consuming audits and the same time enable medical laboratories to meet the requirements of the customers more efficiently.

For further information, please visit [www.iso.ch](http://www.iso.ch)

### ISO Concept Database

A new database has been launched by ISO that will make the benefits of using standards easier to achieve, provide users with new possibilities for achieving such benefits and cut the time necessary to develop and revise standards.

Most of the content of the ISO/CDB is publically accessible via <http://cdb.iso.org>. An on line tour of the CDB is available under [http://www.iso.org/iso/demo\\_ISO-CDB.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/demo_ISO-CDB.html)

### Updated WEEE Regulations

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has published updated regulations designed to improve the effectiveness of the UK's system for collection and treatment of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE). They come into effect from Jan 2010. The key features are

- Membership fees charged to distributors proportionate to their total market share of all EEE retailing
- A fund of £2 million for dissemination to local authorities to contribute towards the maintenance of WEEE collection facilities at civic amenity sites
- An Investment Fund to support establishment of new/replacement collection sites at civic amenity sites.

Under the scheme, distributors can still discharge their obligations by paying into the scheme which contributes finance towards WEEE collection facilities at civic amenity sites.

According to Ian Lucas, UK Minister for Business, "These amending Regulations will help streamline the WEEE system and ensure producer compliance schemes continue to take an active role in the environmentally sound disposal of unwanted equipment. The amending regulations also aim to reduce the administrative burdens placed on the treatment sector."

Copies of the Amended Regulations and accompanying non-statutory guidance will appear on the BIS website.

### Are you 'Green' at work?

Survey results have shown that people have different attitudes towards recycling and energy saving at home and at work. For example, over 40% of people said that they recycled plastics at home but not at work; other poor workplace practices include unnecessarily printing out of emails, and putting recyclable items in the non-recycling bin.

Environment Secretary Hilary Benn said, "Small firms are facing challenging times, today more than ever. Finding ways to save money will help businesses retain a competitive edge. Being sustainable is now essential – for your bottom line and for the environment."



Defra figures indicate that UK business could save £6.4 billion each year by implementing resource efficiency measures that are of no or very little cost. They launched a campaign in November to urge small businesses to cut down on waste, and reduce energy and water use. Business owners can visit [www.businesslink.gov.uk/savingmoney](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/savingmoney) for more information, help and tips.

### **Safety Standard for Consumer Products**

The ISO have started work on a new standard that will offer practical guidance to suppliers of consumer goods, so that they can reduce risks associated with their products. According to the proposal for the standard, injury statistics in Europe, North America and Pacific countries indicate that design problems, malfunctions and inadequate safety information for consumer products are associated with many unintentional injuries. An international standard would provide universally applicable guidance and practical tools to identify, assess and eliminate or reduce potential safety risks, so that they can be addressed before the products enter the market.

It should also increase consumer confidence, while promoting trade and competitiveness. The future standard is expected to provide guidance to all parties involved in the consumer product supply chain (designers, manufacturers, importers, retailers etc).

There are 23 countries involved in the work of the project committee, ISO/PC 243, Consumer product safety. For further details please visit [www.iso.ch](http://www.iso.ch)

### **New Guidance on preventing harassment and violence in the workplace**

Following Europe-wide agreement between employers' organisations and unions, new guidance has been released by the UK Government that is to give practical help and support to firms and employees on preventing harassment and violence in the workplace. Employment Relations Minister Lord Young said, "Workplace harassment and violence is unacceptable and the Government is committed to addressing these problems. By making sure that employers understand their obligations and

workers understand their rights we can promote a better workplace culture."

A copy of the Preventing Workplace Harassment and Violence – joint guidance implementing a European social partner agreement can be found at [www.workplaceharassment.org.uk](http://www.workplaceharassment.org.uk)

### **New BS Standard for Sustainability Management for Events**

A new standard BS 8901:2009 has been released and according to BSI, it will:

- Help companies to improve sustainable performance within available budgets
- Reduce carbon emissions and waste, improving the resource efficiency of the entire event supply chain
- Present opportunities for more efficient planning and encourage the re-use of the equipment and infrastructure
- Reduce environmental impacts such as carbon usage, waste management and effects on biodiversity
- Improve social impacts such as community involvement and fair employment
- Establish economic impacts such as local investment and long-term viability

For more information please visit [www.bsigroup.com](http://www.bsigroup.com)

### **Updated ISO Standard for electric vehicles**

The ISO have released updated versions of the two part ISO 6469 standard for Electric Road Vehicles – Safety specifications. The standard aims to help manufacturers to design fail-safe electrically propelled vehicles and also provides a framework for the information they need to make available for safety personnel and emergency responders dealing with accidents involving such vehicles.

For further information please visit [www.iso.ch](http://www.iso.ch)