Reductions in Red Tape

As part of the Red Tape Challenge that aims to remove regulatory burdens from firms, the government have launched a consultation that proposes to remove some regulations in the retail and manufacturing sectors. Consumer Minister Norman Lamb said, "Removing regulation which is out of date, unnecessary and overcomplicated, whilst protecting customer safety, is a win for consumers and businesses." The consultation is seeking views from businesses, the public and voluntary and community organisations on how these changes will impact them. The closing date for input to the consultation is 23rd May 2012. The details are available at www.redtapechallenge.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Cut the Costs of Waste and Improve your Environmental Performance!

The ideal position is for organisations to both save money and reduce their environmental impacts and a new standard from ISO could help. *ISO 14051 Environmental Management – Material flow cost accounting – general framework* aims to help businesses to understand the environmental and financial consequences of their material and energy use practices, so that they can see areas for improvement.

The standard uses a management information system approach called Material Flow Cost Accounting (MFCA) that can be used to track material flows through the organisation.

Prof Katsuhiko Kokubu, Convenor of the working group that developed the standard said, "Many organisations are unaware of the full extent of the cost of their materiel losses because this data is often difficult to extract from conventional information, accounting and environmental management systems. MFCA produces such precise and clear data that it can motivate managers to enhance material productivity and significantly reduce unnecessary waste far more effectively than through conventional means. The bottom line is that not only do organisations increase profits, but they improve their environmental performance and contribute to sustainable development".

For further information please visit www.iso.ch

Improving Indoor Visual Environments

A new ISO standard aims to help designers, builders and architects consider health, safety, well-being and efficiency of the users of indoor spaces. ISO 16817:2012, Building Environment Design – Indoor environment – design process for visual *environment*, provides a process to assist designers in meeting requirements for visual comfort, lighting, energy use and sustainability of buildings.

Stephen Turner, chair of the standard's working group, said, "Application of the family of indoor environmental design standards help to assure the health, productivity and well-being of building occupants. The standard will help building designers in particular to provide the desired quality of indoor environment and to achieve a high performance and high quality visual

environment, while managing interactions with other aspects of project design".

For further information, please visit www.iso.org

World Standard's Day Poster

World Standards Day is still some months away – but the ISO have launched a poster competition. The poster needs to be on the theme "Less waste, better results – Standards increase efficiency" and the closing date for submission is 10th May 2012. The World Standards Cooperation, who are organising the competition have commented "We hope this competition will fuel fruitful conversations about the value of standards for increasing efficiency, while promoting a spirit of openness and engagement with the public. We are very excited to see your inspiring creations".

Any questions about the competition should be sent to wsdposter@worldstandardscooperation.org To compete designers should send their entries in .jpg or .pnp format to the same address.

ISO Standard for XMP

Adobe's Extensible Metadata Platform (XMP) is a labelling technology that allows users to embed data about a file, known as metadata, into the file itself. *ISO 16684-1:2012, Graphic technology – extensible metadata platform (XMP) specification – Part 1:Data model, serialisation and core properties,* offers designers of content and way to embed information about their projects.

Adobe's Systems Director Engineering, Frank Biederich, said "I am excited to see ISO advance open and extensible metadata by releasing the first part of the Adobe XMP specification as an International Standard. Going forward, this allows industry experts to influence the direction of XMP and drive innovation leveraging an established metadata ecosystem. Effective metadata management has become increasingly

important with the explosion of digital media. The XMP platform not only helps operating system vendors and software companies to seamlessly exchange media related information it also has been adopted by camera manufactures applying metadata to content early in the creation process".

For further information please visit www.iso.org

Business Continuity

The Annual CMI (Chartered Management Institute) Business Continuity Management Survey is available to download. Sponsored by BSI, the survey provides a useful view of business continuity each year. According to the BSI, the findings of the report show:

- An increase in organisations that have Business Continuity Management in place; 61% up from 58%
- The biggest driver for implementing BCM is Corporate Governance
- The leading cause for business disruption last year was severe weather conditions – as it has been for the last three years
- Businesses are implementing policies to cope with the London Olympic Games; 25% of organisations are allowing staff to flex their hours, while 17% are enabling staff to work remotely.

You can download a copy of the report from the CMI website.

If you have suffered disruption, then you might find *PD 25888 Business Continuity Management Guidance* on organisation recovery following disruptive incidents. This offers you a guide on how to develop and implement you organisation's recovery in response to such an incident. It will help you:

- Identify the links between recovery, incident and BCM
- Find out about what BCM means
- Appreciate the knowledge, skills and responsibilities required to develop recovery arrangements

- Ensure that decisions do not compromise medium to long term recovery
- Monitor the progress of your recovery.

For further information, please visit www.bsi-global.com

ISO 14001 to be Revised

The well-established standard for environmental management systems ISO 14001 is now undergoing a revision. This will not be ready for release until 2015. We will keep you informed about the progress and of any changes which are announced.

RIDDOR Change

According to the HSE Website, from **6 April 2012,** RIDDOR's over-three-day injury reporting requirement changed. The trigger point has increased from over three days' to over seven days' incapacitation (not counting the day on which the accident happened).

Incapacitation means that the worker is absent or is unable to do work that they would reasonably be expected to do as part of their normal work.

Employers and others with responsibilities under RIDDOR must still keep a record of all over-three day-injuries – if the employer has to keep an accident book, then this record will be enough.

The deadline by which the over-seven-day injury must be reported has also increased to fifteen days from the day of the accident. A new leaflet Reporting accidents and incidents at work explains the changes.

Health Data to be Better Protected

A new standard from ISO, aims to improve the protection of personal health information. ISO 14265 Health Informatics – Classification of purposes for protecting personal health information defines a set of categories of purposes for which personal health information can be processed. It provides a framework for classifying the various specific purposes that can be defined and used by healthcare organisations, health authorities, etc.

Elaine Sawalsky and Dipal Kaira, project leaders of the committee that developed the standard said, "This important piece of work is now available to help organisations understand how to manage the personal health information they hold, and how to ensure that the information is used appropriately and consistently".

For further information please visit www.iso.org

Safe Scaffolding

Standards of scaffolding differ!