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## Training and Development

September brings the start of a new academic year and it is often an opportunity to review training and development in the workplace. The UK Government have recently launched a new programme to help people improve their skills, find a job and progress at work.

The Employability Skills programme is a joint initiative developed by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS), Jobcentre Plus and the Learning and Skills Council (LSC).

It has been developed to meet the needs of Jobcentre Plus customers and includes a provision leading to an Employability Award that is based on the skills, behaviours and attitudes that employers want to see in someone they recruit.

Caroline Flint, Minister for Employment and Welfare Reform, said:

"Our recent Green Paper 'In Work, Better Off' sets out the next steps for reaching full employment. To achieve this we need Jobcentre Plus customers to have access to the right skills training to fill over 640,000 vacancies across the country.

"The employability skills programme will ensure training where necessary in numeracy, literacy and language skills to help them find a job and then further training to help keep people in employment once they are working."

In Work, Better Off: Next Steps to Full Employment can be found at: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/welfarereform/in-work-better-off/>

For people involved in Quality Assurance and wish to obtain some academic qualifications in quality, then the Chartered Institute for Quality (CQI) offers either a Certificate in Quality or a Diploma in Quality.

The Certificate is designed for part-time study or distance learning and is usually achieved in one year, although you can take longer. It is a Level 3 qualification (about A level) and is based on three modules – C1 Customers, Clients and Markets, C2 Principles of Data Analysis and C3 Models, Standards and laws. The first two modules are assessed by assignment and the last module is examinable.

The Diploma is also usually studied part-time or studied via distance learning. It is a Level 5 qualification (about degree level) and usually takes between 3 and 6 years. There are five compulsory modules including a project; D1 Principles of Quality and Data Analysis, D2 Quality management. D3 Tools and techniques, D4 Communication and project management, D5 Quality project and a final module chosen from either D6 Quality and environmental management or D7 Information technology and quality management.

For further information on these CQI Qualifications visit [www.thecqi.org](http://www.thecqi.org)

## ISO Standard for traceability in food supply chains

The ISO22000 series on food management systems has a new addition, *ISO 22005:2007, Traceability in the feed and food chain – General principles and basic requirements for system design and implementation*. According to ISO, the standard will allow organisations operating at any step of the food chain to:

- Trace the flow of materials (feed, food, their ingredients and packaging)



- Identify necessary documentation and tracking for each stage of production
- Ensure adequate coordination between the different actors involved
- Require that each party be informed of at least his direct suppliers and clients and more

Alan Bryden, ISO Secretary-General, said, “With ISO 22005, ISO contributes once more to safeguarding public health and encouraging the economic development of the global food industry in a manner that respects societal needs for safety. In this way, ISO 22005 reflects the essence of the upcoming World Standards Day on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2007 theme is *Standards and the Citizen: Contributing to Society*”

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

### **ISO Standard on Security Glazing**

Two new ISO Standards on Security Glazing have been released to help protect people against terrorist attacks. Valerie Block, secretary of the ISO subcommittee that developed the standard has said, “Explosion resistance of glazing has become a high priority in many commercial and government buildings as a means of protecting people and property from accidental explosions or the effects of terrorist bombs”

The two new standards are:

*ISO 16933, Glass in building – Explosion-resistant security glazing – Test and classification for arena air-blast loading*, provided a method for carrying out arena blast tests in order to assess and classify the response of glazing to the over pressure and impulse characteristics of high-explosive blasts

*ISO 16934, Glass in building – Explosion-resistant security glazing – Test and classification by shock-tube loading*, provides a method for carrying out tests simulating high-explosive blasts and provides criteria for rating the level of damage to glazing from which can be assessed the hazard

consequences to the area located behind the glazing.

For further information on these standards, please visit [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)

### **ISO Report on IT Icons and Symbols**

As the use of computers and the internet rises, the number of icons and symbols is growing and this can be confusing for some users, especially if they are elderly or disabled. The ISO have recently published a report on their survey of these icons and symbols that have been collected from a variety of sources.

*ISO/IEC TR 19765:2007, Information technology – Survey of icons and symbols that provide access to functions and facilities to improve the use of information technology products by the elderly and persons with disabilities* aims to help these people to get the best out of IT products.

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

### **Sustainability in Construction**

The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) together with the Construction Industry have released a draft Sustainable Construction Strategy. The key areas are:

- Reduction of carbon footprint of activities in construction
- Production of zero net waste at construction site level
- Developing agreements and initiatives aimed at reducing the carbon footprint and the use of resources within the built environment
- Creating a safer industry through improving skills and training programmes

Stephen Timms, Minister for construction at BERR, said, “The threat of global warming is of enormous concern to the community and it demands change from Government, industry and the public alike. Currently the built environment accounts for around 47% of greenhouse gas emissions in the UK (Construction accounts for 1.5%). Not only must the construction industry rise to the challenge of reducing those emissions, it must



also consider how it will adapt its products to deal with the impacts of unavoidable climate change”.

The proposed strategy is now available and feedback from the industry and other stakeholders is welcomed, the deadline for comments is November 2007 and copies of the consultation document can be found at <http://berr.gov.uk/files/file34979.pdf>

### **A pocket guide to Sustainable Development**

DEFRA have produced a free pocket sized booklet that provides an overview of the UK's progress in tackling key economic, social and environmental issues. It contains 68 indicators comprising 127 measures that cover everything from health and housing to crime and education. There are four priority areas:

- Sustainable consumption and production
- Climate change and energy
- Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement
- Creating sustainable communities

Twenty of the indicators are also UK Framework indicators including: Greenhouse gas emissions, river water quality, bird populations, crime, health inequality and environmental equality.

Environment Minister Phil Woolas said: “These indicators highlight some of the challenges for our lifestyles, for business and for policy makers if we are to develop sustainably. They help to illustrate where we are making progress and where we may need to develop our thinking and do things differently to get improvements. It is important that people can see for themselves where we as a country are getting things right or where we all need to do more or do things differently – not just in combating climate change, but in reducing other environmental impacts, in worrying about how we function as a society and how people are affected.”

Free copies of the booklet are available from DEFRA Publications, Admail 6000 London SW1A 2XX or email: [defra@cambertown.com](mailto:defra@cambertown.com), quoting Product Code PB12683. It can also be found on <http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk>

### **Life Satisfaction and Well-being**

According to a DEFRA 2007 Survey of behaviours and attitudes, 73% of people in England rated their satisfaction with life as 7 or more out of 10. As might be expected there were large differences in satisfaction between occupational groups and between age groups. For example, those in unskilled jobs, on a state pension or unemployed were more likely than average to have regularly experienced negative feelings such as depression, feeling unsafe and feeling lonely in the last two weeks.

For full details of the results, please visit [www.sustainable-development.gov.uk](http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk)

### **Biometrics Report**

Biometrics uses personal characteristics such as speech, fingerprints, iris and face recognition, to identify or verify the identity of users. The technologies involved have been described in a new technical report from the ISO. *ISO/IEC TR 24722:2007, Information technology – Biometrics – Multimodal and other multibiometric fusion*, offers technology solutions that may enable the fusion of multiple biometric indicators to improve multiple evidences of the same identity. This should improve the reliability and performance of the use of biometric data.

Fernando Podio, Chair of the ISO subcommittee that developed the report said, “Solutions based on multimodal or multibiometric fusion represent an emerging trend that for some applications promises to lead to better degrees of technical performance than systems based on a single method. This latest ISO/IEC technical report provides an overview of multimodal and other multibiometric systems and gives a reference on multibiometric fusion for developers of standards and implementers of biometric systems that require more than one biometric modality”.

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