



Bulletin

VWIS Venture

The principal, Robert Holmes, has been invited by Vogel Waste Industry Services (VWIS), a process engineering firm offering Waste Technology & Process Services to head up the organisation’s Environmental Management & Compliance Services. The organisation will shortly take up residence in a new office conversion at Unit 7 in Loseley Park, near Guildford in the Surrey countryside. The conversion from a former warehouse and cold store has been designed with environmental performance in mind and a



NEWSLETTER

BREEAM assessment will be carried out on the ‘as built’ premises leading hopefully to the award of a BREEAM certificate. Innovative elements in the design include the installation of a biomass-fuelled heating system with fuel supplied from the Loseley Estate. There are plans to install solar panels following upgrading of the current roof and a grey water collection and utilisation scheme. The new premises is expected to be occupied by September 2009 (see picture).

EMS Design Support

The Company has been awarded a contract to ‘kick-start’ the design and

implementation of ISO 14001:2004 for a Hampshire based health care company which is a world leader in the field of in vitro diagnostics. The organisation plans to introduce a certifiable EMS before early summer 2010 aiding the process with their experience of maintaining an existing certified Quality Management system. Stage I will include the preparation of an environmental baseline assessment and a systems Gap analysis.

BREEAM Assessor

In June 2009 the principal, Robert Holmes, was added to the list of registered assessors under BRE’s Environmental

Assessment Method (BREEAM) Industrial Scheme 2008. The registration was awarded after successful completion of training, a written examination and a test assessment. This and all other BREEAM schemes are operated under a Competent Persons Scheme which is UKAS accredited as meeting the requirements of ISO 17024. The Company has not registered at this time as a licensed organisation but the principal collaborates with licensed organisations as a subcontractor. See the introduction to the BREEAM scheme and how it is applied on page 2 of this Newsletter.

“It is important that organisations benefit from using competent, certified auditors”

IRCA Certification

With the increasing globalization and competitiveness of business, it is more important than ever that organisations benefit from using competent, certified auditors. Following his registration as an International Register of Certificated Auditors (IRCA) EMS Principal Auditor in June 2009, Robert Holmes now belongs to a register of over 12,000 skilled management systems professionals that operate in over 120 countries.

IRCA has assessed his technical and interpersonal skills, including his professional attributes (ethical conduct, professional care, communication skills), and his skills in planning, managing and reporting management sys-

tems audits. This provides clients and employers with the assurance that he has the ability and experience to add real value to their business, through the assessment of business processes and systems.

Because he belongs to IRCA he has access to the latest information and thinking with regard to management systems and auditing. He also participates in a programme of continual professional development that ensures that he can provide clients and employers the best results.

For further information or to verify his certification on the IRCA Find an Auditor online directory please go to the IRCA website at www.irca.org.



Unit 7 under construction

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Recent Auditing Experiences

Certification Audits DNV

The principal continues to maintain his registration as an EMS Lead Auditor with the certification body DNV. The principal has been acting as a subcontractor with DNV Certification for close on four years by the end of 2009.

Over the period from September 2008 approximately 20, six-monthly periodic and three-yearly recertification audit contracts have been completed with DNV Certification involving visiting 35 separate sites or facilities operated by organisations providing the following services:

- Sub-contracted waste collection & street environmental services for various London boroughs
- Car and taxi booking and account services
- National and international parcel deliveries
- Printing
- Procurement services of a Fire Authority
- Street environmental services of a Central London borough
- Waste disposal
- Waste recycling
- Waste transfer

AJA Registrars

The principal has been approved as a Lead Auditor for EMS with Bristol-based AJA

Registrars Ltd. A witnessed two-day ISO 14001:2004 Stage 2 (Initial) Audit of a regional construction firm took place in East Anglia in May 2009. The audit included visiting and auditing documentation and activities at the firm's headquarters and three active construction sites in the local area. A recommendation for certification was made during the audit's closing meeting.

Compliance Assurance

On behalf of AECOM Environment the principal has acted as an environmental auditor in four recent EHS compliance audits carried out on multinational manufactur-

ing facilities in Ireland as part of corporate Compliance Assurance programmes. Specialist H&S experts were included in each audit team. Audits were in-depth following Evaluation Work Plans and each lasted up to 5 days on each site. The plants audited were:

- Manufacturer of functional ingredients for finished food and pharmaceutical products.
- Manufacturer of bulk pharmaceuticals used as the key ingredients in the production of tablets and capsules.
- Manufacturer infant formula food and nutritional products for international markets.
- Healthcare manufacturing facility which manufactures diabetes care test strips.

Introducing BREEAM

The Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) was first developed for the assessment of offices in 1990 closely followed by a method to assess industrial units. Specific BREEAM schemes are also available for other building types, including courts and healthcare facilities. A major update to all schemes was carried out in 2008. This introduced mandatory post-construction reviews and innovation credits.

More than 115,000 buildings have been certified by mid-2009 including 340 Industrial Units.

The method is voluntary but a number of governmental departments and agencies require BREEAM certification for various new developments, buildings or projects exceeding specified

values. These include English Partnerships and the Office of Government Commerce.

What is BREEAM

The method was developed to reduce the impacts of buildings on the environment. These impacts are considerable. The Environment Agency reported in 2007 that 50% of the greenhouse gas emissions in the UK derive from the energy used in constructing, occupying and operating buildings. DEFRA also have reported that almost one third of total UK waste comes from the construction and demolition of buildings. The BREEAM method provides a credible environmental 'label' for buildings and ensures that best environmental practice is incorporated in buildings. The method also raises awareness of owners, designers and operators of buildings of the



benefits of buildings with a reduced impact on the environment.

Method

Assessments are applied to buildings at the Design Stage, following which an interim certificate is issued after the assessment report passes the QA process and at the Post Construction Stage a final certificate is awarded again after the QA process has been passed. The method identifies nine 'categories' of sustain-

ability namely: Construction Management; Health & Well-being; Energy; Transport; Water; Materials; Waste; Land Use & Ecology and Pollution. Credits are awarded in these categories according to performance and the detailed requirements of a series of criteria making up each category. These credits are added together and the final score assigned a scale of pass ranging through 5 types from 'Pass' to 'Outstanding'.

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