

## 6<sup>th</sup> June 2007 - Network Meeting News

Our first meeting was attended by: (in order of appearance)

Ian Rienewerf (H&S/Enviro/Quality), Ray Smith (Occupational / Environmental testing),  
Stew Fullerton (H&S manager), Barry Cunningham (H&S plus continuous improvement),  
Tony Dodds (FM services manager)

### Outcome

Whose idea was it to host the Morpeth meeting on Market day – the busiest day of the week?

We got straight into the groove with a good exchange of information and top tips on how to source the good Health & Safety stuff from helpful companies. It was good to see that other professionals have had similar problems, and to learn how they have resolved the issues.

At 2 pm Ian stood up and gave his view of the state of play – making the following points:

### Legal Updates - New regs affecting us at work (in date order)

- Smoke free requirements 1st July – Free signs via the NHS website (3 week delivery)

<http://www.smokefreeengland.co.uk/content/order-materials.html>

- WEEE regs <http://www.dti.gov.uk/innovation/sustainability/weee/page30269.html>

Take back schemes by 1st July 2007 for domestic appliances only – not commercial waste.

- REACH [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/reach/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/reach/index_en.htm) An EU directive for importers or exporters of chemical substances. Barry stated that the format to regulate these EU regs is unclear at present. This means all companies using any hazardous materials could be affected.

We will try to keep you updated at the next meeting. The regs will be active on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007.

- CDM regs 1st April <http://citb-constructionskills.co.uk/healthsafety/cdmregulations/>

Definitions & a new CDM co-ordinator role. Construction welfare regs now rolled into CDM

- Work at height amendments February 2007 – Training requirements now include provisions equal to those required for work activities under the original work at height regs.

- Asbestos at work regs 13th November <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2006/20062739.htm>

These regs might not be picked up by your subscription service for 3 months – This urgent update verifies that frequent scanning the OPSI website for updates is vital to remain legal.

- RRO Fire risk assessments – <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2005/20051541.htm>

From 1st Oct 2006 for all UK work premises or public places. Some companies are unaware or unconcerned about the legal implications of keeping up to date fire risk assessment reports.

### Topics of the day

A short risk management presentation showed us examples of good and bad practices in real life, reminding us about visual management, continuous improvement, and risk management.

A documented system includes: Policy, Manual, Procedures, Checklists, and Audits.

An environmental clip from Sky news demonstrated the dark side of overseas recycling.

A roofing advert showing a blatant disregard to the working at height regs, as discussed.

## **IREMS - Ian Rienewerf Environmental Management Services - [www.irems.co.uk](http://www.irems.co.uk)**

H&S workplace risk assessments / Health & Safety (OHSAS 18001) / Environmental (ISO 14001) / Quality (ISO 9001 / TS 16949)

E-mail direct to – [info@irems.co.uk](mailto:info@irems.co.uk) or Telephone **07854 718142**

Questions & answers – An opportunity to ask the experts.

Q. What is the recommended sample time for 8hr dose meter readings for noise?

A. It needs to be representative to the 8-hour working day, about an hour, but 15 min to 4 hrs have been used depending on the noise source – Ray has the experience and all the test gear available via his environmental testing company. <http://www.esfonline.co.uk/>

Stew recommended the Castle – Competent persons course for noise testing & interpretation.

The discussion moved onto HAV vibration testing and the cost of test equipment.

Hiring can be up to £500 a week, or £1,500 to £4,000 to purchase. A tri-axial meter is needed.

Ray described the common measuring errors and how to avoid them.

Ian recommended the <http://www.operc.com/pages/havtecwelcome.asp> website to use the free database with real life HAV measurements logged by registered members for power tools.

Networking – talking around the table for an informal chat with fellow professionals

18001 / 14001 / 9001 / TS16949 Standards were available to view and discussed.

Tony and Ian talked about the benefit versus the huge effort involved in gaining the OHSAS18001 specification, and/or the ISO14001 Environmental standard.

Feedback – areas for improvement

Venue parking /directions / other problems – Parking is not good for Morpeth in general

Time, 1pm start after dinner - The room is available any time after 9am if req'd

Preferred frequency of meetings - Every 2 months – So the next one will be mid August

Potential for site visits (2 or 3 per year?) – We are open to offers if anyone wants to host

Details of the next meeting

Date - Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> August – (to be confirmed)

Venue – Morpeth Wansbeck Riverside Social Club <http://www.wansbeck-riverside.co.uk/>

Time – 1pm to 3pm

Agenda -

1:00 - ½ hour to meet and greet people as they arrive.

1:30 - Introductions / Legal updates / Topic of the day / Questions and answers

2:00 - Networking

3:00 - Feedback to arrange the next meeting

Full details will be posted here - <http://www.irems.co.uk/network.html>

Ian Rienewerf – 11/06/2007