

Network meeting – 29th January 2009, Ocean Certification (1pm-2:45pm)

Head Office - Ocean Certification, <http://www.ocean-cert.com/index.htm>
Ouseburn Building, Albion Row, East Quayside, Newcastle NE6 1LL.



1pm – Attendees – Stewart Fullarton, Jim Fraser and Ian Rienewerf were joined by Richard O’Neill (Ocean Certification), and Julian Ringer <http://www.seqm.com>

1:10 - Legal updates – No significant changes since the last meeting.

Safety discussions – No problems. It was noted that many of the apologies for absence were due to workload commitments and having too much work on. The recession has affected the larger companies running at reduced output. But others appear to be OK.

Risk management systems and certification – the benefits are out there.

For your organisation – including sole traders & consultants, the benefits are:

- New marketing opportunities – Beating the competition to new work.
- Keeping existing clients happy – Expand contracts & get more work.
- Improve business efficiency – Run leaner and better. Make more profit.
- Control and structure of business activities – organisational improvements.
- Error proofing and waste reduction – Making a +ve out of a -ve situation.
- Preventing potential risks or mistakes – Eliminate/control your business risks.

Set-up costs:

- About 1 to 6-months work for full implementation.
- Internal audit training (or skilled resources) for the chosen discipline.
- Certification Audit – dependant on size of your company or organisation.

Ongoing costs for system maintenance:

- Internal audits and corrective improvements for the certified system.
- Follow-up External Audits – The auditor’s fees, and your staff downtime.

Your payback to offset the costs above:

- Business improvements and cost savings
- Extra work via new or extended contracts.
- The Kudos, prestige, and high profile of operating to high corporate standards.

Payback specific to Ian R.

- Top-up skills & personal development
- Fill the gap when our clients £2m construction project completes in March 09
- Business continuity, with improved focus placed on our clients needs.

Questions and answers – Julian Ringer and Richard O’Neill were available to answer specific questions, and arrange individual consultations or quotations at a later date.

2:45 pm – Close of the meeting

Next meeting - Will be arranged for April, but will avoid the Easter holidays.