



January 2008 Edition

ENVIRONMENTAL DISCLOSURES

The Environment Agency has published a report on how companies report their environmental disclosures: *Environmental disclosures: The Second Major Review of Environmental Reporting in the Annual Report & Accounts of the FTSE All-Share for the year ending 31st March 2007*. This follows the first review in 2004.

The research, carried out has found that qualitative reporting has improved since 2004, with 98% of the FTSE all-share companies mentioning the word environment in their annual reports, up 9% since 2004. In addition, 35% percent of the disclosures were in audited sections of the reports, up 25% from 2004. However the level of quantitative disclosures on environmental risks still remains relatively low, despite the fact that they may affect shareholders.



On the negative side, the report notes that only 15% of companies reported on one of the key environmental performance indicators recommended by Government, and only 3% disclosed absolute quantified, comparable figures on all three key performance indicators of water, waste and climate change impacts. These reporting requirements are now also being driven by the Companies Act 2006, which additionally states that directors have a duty to take account of the impact of a company's operations on the environment.

For assistance on environmental disclosures and reporting please feel free to contact [Philip Blake](#). The Environment Agency report can be read in full [here](#).

European soil protection law blocked

EU Environment ministers were recently (20 Dec) unable to reach a political agreement on the proposal for a *soil framework directive* due to a small blocking minority led by the UK, France and Germany. As a consequence the potential tightening of existing controls in a number of areas, in particular contaminated land, will not proceed in the near future.

The EU Commission had previously identified eight threats to soils: erosion, organic matter decline, contamination, salinisation, compaction, soil biodiversity loss, sealing, landslides and flooding. The draft directive aimed to establish a common strategy for the protection and sustainable use of soil, based on the principles of integration of soil concerns into other policies.

Headline Stories

Industrial Pollution Controls Strengthened

The EU Commission has adopted new legislation strengthening rules on industrial emissions across Europe. It is proposed to merge seven existing pieces of legislation, including the *Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive (IPPC)*, into a single document to reduce emissions from industrial installations into air, water and soil.

The proposed directive would strengthen emissions limits, ensure better enforcement in EU member states, and reduce administrative costs for industry. It would improve and clarify the concept of Best Available Techniques (BATs), and tighten minimum emission limits in certain industrial sectors

CRA joins the Chemical Industries Association



**CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES
ASSOCIATION**

Details to follow in the next issue.

Corporate Carbon Footprinting

CRA are sponsoring the ENDS Corporate Carbon Footprinting Conference on 4th March 2008 in London, aiming to demonstrate the case for measuring and reducing corporate carbon across the product lifecycle or supply chain. Conference and booking details can be found [here](#).

New Starters

CRA are pleased to welcome Susan Bulpitt who joins our Nottingham Office as Senior Consultant in the Industrial Operations Support Team.

Vacancies

CRA's continued growth means we have opportunities across all levels in our **Industrial Operations Support, Land and Property** and **EMS** teams.

Further information including details of how to apply can be found by clicking [here](#).

Next Issue:

Brownfield development in 2008. CRA 'SMART' health and safety program.

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Health & Safety Services

CRA through their Health and Safety specialists team, are able to offer a range of management tools and training courses to clients, to enable them to evaluate their workforce, understand the root causes of stress related and musculo-skeletal issues and introduce beneficial controls for the betterment of employee health and well-being.

For further information please contact our [Health and Safety Team](#)

Feature

ISO 9000 series moves towards Sustainability

The revised ISO 9001 is due to be published in mid 2008 and there are likely to be minimal changes this time around. However, a revised ISO 9004 is due to be published in late 2009. At that time the link with ISO 9001 will be broken and, if the current early draft is adopted, ISO 9004 will take a significant new direction; with ISO 9001 coming in to line at its next revision.

The current draft of ISO 9004 has the working title **'Managing for sustainable success – A quality management approach'**. Where sustainable success is defined as:

'....the ability of an organisation or activity to maintain or develop its performance in the long term. Sustainable success emphasises the need for a balance between the economic/financial interests of an organisation and those of its social and ecological environment. Sustainable success relates to interested parties of an organisation'

This is the direction that the ISO 9000 series is moving towards. If organisations wish to move beyond ISO 9001 they will increasingly need to think strategically about the economic, social and environmental sustainability of their operations.

CRA provides a range of Sustainability and Corporate Responsibility support services to its clients. To find out more e-mail our [Corporate Responsibility Team](#).

Workplace Illness Figures Leap 23%

According to the HSE's latest analysis of injury and illness figures for 2007, the number of people reporting work-related illnesses has now topped 2.2 million. This equates to 664,00 newly reported cases of work-related ill-health, an increase of 23% on the previous year.

The unexplained jump in self-reported instances of employee ill-health became evident during the most recent government quarterly labour force survey and cannot be written off against changes in the way data is gathered. The rate is now close to being the same as that of the 2001/2 reference year and will result in a knock-on effect on HSE improvement targets for 2010.

Most of the newly ill employees reported suffering from stress or muscular-skeletal disorders. *"It is very disappointing to see that days lost due to stress-related illness have increased so much, and we really need to find out why"*, said HSC Chair Judith Hackitt, *"but employers also need to think about their role in reversing this trend which means real efficiency loss and bottom line cost for them"*.



**CONESTOGA-ROVERS
& ASSOCIATES (EUROPE) LTD**

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