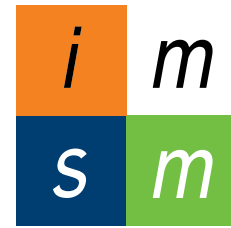


impact

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iso specialists

From small actions come big results



For Acorn Industrial Services Limited, getting on the supplier lists of large organisations is a priority. With IMSM's support, the company achieved ISO 14001 certification – and discovered new ways to enhance its operations.

Acorn Industrial Services is a leading distributor of bearings, power transmission products, linear systems and maintenance solutions. Operating across the UK, the company delivers stock from a range of over 40,000 products.

According to Clive Simkins, Business Development Manager, it was vital that Acorn Industrial Services could demonstrate its commitment to corporate responsibility. "In today's global marketplace, many large organisations want to know a company is credible before they will consider placing them on their supplier lists," he said. "So it was essential that we apply for such a valuable standard."

The company approached IMSM for support gaining ISO 14001: "I was surprised at just how smoothly everything went. IMSM's Assessor first visited us in early September. By early November, we had received the certificate."

For Clive, being ISO 14001 certified is about much more than wielding a piece of paper showing the company's compliance. It's an ongoing process of continuously analysing performance and improving practices. "This is just the start. We're a dynamic business, so as a company we need to set time aside to look at what we're doing and how we're going to continually improve and to pass next year's audit. With this

standard, you can never stand still."

The company has put many new working practices in place, including introducing extra recycling bins and separating certain waste products from other materials. However, as Clive explains, it's not just the big changes that make a difference. "The process made us consider lots of things, from how we use our trucks to making sure we switch lights off before leaving the office. From small actions come big results."

Acorn Industrial Services is already getting the message across through various media. "We're promoting the standard on our website," he said. "Our emails also feature a banner showing our achievement – and we've added the logo mark to our business cards. I'm confident that attaining ISO 14001 will help us achieve even greater success."

It's all about chemistry

For more than 27 years, CK Gas Products has supplied industrial and research establishments with a comprehensive range of gases. These include industrial, special, high-purity and mixed gases, which the team supplies in all quantities. The company also supplies related gas-handling equipment.

As Jonathan Bell from CK Gas, explained, the company wanted to demonstrate its environmental credentials – particularly within a sector that handles potentially volatile compounds.

"Many of the gases we deal with, such as cyanide and chlorine, can be dangerous in the wrong hands," he said. "So we wanted to show our customers and prospects that we care about protecting people and minimising our impact on the environment. Gaining ISO 14001 was a great way to reveal our commitment to customers and reinforce our expertise."

IMSM came recommended to CK Gas by a previous employee, "The IMSM Assessor came to us and went through everything clearly and simply. It was all straightforward and hassle-free. Best of all, the process never once distracted us from our daily tasks."

To comply with the certification, the company acquired a new fleet of efficient company cars and updated its handling of hazardous goods. CK Gas was already meeting many of the requirements. "We've always aimed to operate as efficiently as possible, for example, we don't have an excess of waste. The process enhanced our operations through improving efficiency, adapting procedures and reducing energy usage."

Since becoming ISO 14001 certified, Jonathan has seen a growing interest among customers in CK Gas's credentials. He also plans to communicate the achievement to the wider world. "It's early days, but we're in the process of updating our website to inform customers and prospects about gaining ISO 14001. I'm sure it will positively impact our business and perception within the industry."

Ticking all the boxes

After gaining ISO 9001 and BS OHSAS 18001 with IMSM, Mantis Cranes then set about securing ISO 14001 certification. Already, the standard is proving its worth when approaching new customers. Based in County Durham, Mantis Cranes is the UK's number one self-erecting crane supplier. So it's essential for Mantis Cranes to show it takes quality, safety and environmental standards seriously.



"National construction firms are leading the way in environmental, safety and corporate responsibility standards," said Philip Brown from Mantis Cranes' head office in County Durham. "In turn, they're driving suppliers and contractors down these routes. Making sure we're their first choice means showing the same commitment to quality and demonstrating that the environment is at the heart of our culture."

"IMSM had been instrumental in gaining our two standards – so they were the natural choice for helping us become ISO 14001 certified. They were helpful throughout the whole process. Not only were they easy to work with, they were flexible too and always willing to fit round our schedule."

Philip and his team had already prepared for meeting the standard. So Mantis Cranes passed the full audit with flying colours. "Following a pre-assessment, IMSM's Assessor conducted a comprehensive audit," he said. "We achieved every requirement."

Beyond revealing the company's environmental commitment, the standard has fulfilled another major aim: to cut down on paperwork. "Without the standard, most contractors wanted us to complete large questionnaires, often up to around forty pages long. Now we just tick one box saying we're ISO 14001 certified and that's all they need to know."

ISO 14001: 2004 Environmental Management

ISO 14001 will help your company to reduce its carbon footprint and lower costs. This international standard will allow your company to set up a fully integrated and effective Environmental Management System (EMS) that will streamline operations, allocate time and resources more effectively and increase overall efficiency.

ISO 14001 will reduce your waste and help to give you a smaller carbon footprint; it will also assist in reducing your tax, energy and insurance bills and lower your environmental liability.

Being ISO 14001 certified will provide a host of benefits, such as:

- Gaining the credentials to satisfy growing market demand
- Open up new global business opportunities
- Ensuring your business always adheres to regulation and keeping up to date with the company's environmental impact
- Puts the environment at the heart of corporate culture
- Clients and those in your supply chain have confidence that you will add value and support them in their own environmental policies