

SSIP HELPS CUT ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN

Providing duplicate data on compliance with the various health and safety schemes to all potential clients can be frustrating and time-consuming, but the Safety Schemes in Procurement forum offers a way to simplify the process, explains **Jodie Read**.

Companies tendering for new contracts are often frustrated by the seemingly never ending number of safety schemes such as Construction Health and Safety (CHAS), Constructionline and SafeContractor to which they are required to demonstrate compliance before they can even be considered for the opportunity. It has long been said that there is no joined-up thinking, with a sense of frustration that companies are providing the same information to different organisations. Safety Schemes in Procurement (SSIP) now goes some way towards addressing these issues.

SSIP

Safety Schemes in Procurement (SSIP) (www.ssip.org.uk) aims to act as an umbrella organisation "to facilitate mutual recognition between health and safety pre-qualification schemes". This is surely good news for landscapers who are keen to spend time designing, installing and maintaining outdoor projects rather than filling in paperwork explaining how such work is delivered in a safe manner.

OHSAS18001 AS A ROUTE TO SSIP

For readers of last month's article on OHSAS18001, there is more good news. Provided that your health and safety management system has been assessed as satisfactorily meeting the requirements of OHSAS18001 by one of the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) accredited Certification Bodies that are part of the SSIP Forum membership*, you will be issued with a

certificate that demonstrates that your system is SSIP approved. That in turn will enable you to explain to purchasers, such as local authorities, that you do not need to apply separately for certification to all of the other standards. (*The SSIP Forum membership is changing constantly, however, the current details can be found on <http://www.ssip.org.uk/docs/SSIPForumMembership040412.pdf>).

Arguably, being approved to SSIP via OHSAS18001 carries more credibility than some of the other schemes by virtue of the fact that the third party assessors actually visit your premises and sites. This has the benefit that they have actually observed that work is indeed being carried out safely and in accordance with the documented safe systems of work.

BENEFITS OF SSIP APPROVAL VIA OHSAS18001

Benefits of being able to demonstrate approval to SSIP via OHSAS18001 can be summarised as:

- Independent third party verification that the

safety management system which has been evaluated from a practical perspective, and not just looked at as a paperwork exercise.

- The OHSAS18001 certificate (with SSIP logo) can be included with Pre Qualification Questionnaires when tendering for new work. It provides evidence of meeting safety standards.
- Less administrative burden, because there should be no need to duplicate effort. There is even a template letter that can be used to help educate purchasers via Appendix 2 of The Supplier's Guide to Registration: <http://www.ssip.org.uk/docs/SuppliersGuideToSSIPRegistration050412.pdf>.
- Less cost (both in terms of paying application fees for various schemes and in terms of the amount of management time taken to produce the necessary evidence of compliance).

For a full list of the schemes that are covered by SSIP, visit www.ssip.org.uk.

ABOUT JODIE READ



Jodie Read is the Managing Director of Penarth Management Limited; a company which specialises in the provision compliance consultancy and

training for quality, environmental, health and safety management. She and her colleagues assist companies to implement and maintain management systems, such as ISO9001 (Quality), ISO14001 (Environmental) or

OHSAS18001 (Health and Safety).

The company is an affiliate member of the British Association of Landscape Industries (BALI) and Jodie is one of only a few approved ROLO health and safety trainers in the country.

If readers have any queries regarding SSIP, OHSAS18001, ROLO or any other aspect of health and safety they are welcome to contact Jodie via e-mail: jodie@penarth.co.uk or by telephone on 029 2070 3328.