

# ACHIEVING ISO 14001

by Bernard Hall

## What is ISO14001?

In answer to many questions **ISO 14001** is an internationally recognized standard for 'Environmental Management Systems' and is endorsed by the **International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO)**.

The standard comprises a number of requirements which, when met, will enable you to prove that you have effective processes in place to identify and address (as far as is reasonable) the activities of your business that can pollute the environment or deplete unsustainable resources.

For example, most cars emit **particulates** and **CO<sub>2</sub>** (**Carbon Dioxide**) through their exhausts whilst consuming irreplaceable fossil fuels (petrol, diesel, etc.)

To achieve accredited 'Certification' (the only way to receive the coveted 'Crown and Tick' or **European equivalent**) you simply have to prove compliance to the standard and this is awarded following a successful assessment.

## Why bother?

To a greater or lesser degree we are all under pressure to improve our environmental performance – business managers in particular. **Private Hire and Taxi account clients** are increasingly likely to ask you to prove your environmental credentials and 'certification' to **ISO 14001** is usually sufficient evidence.

**Environmental** consideration also simply makes good business sense since, for example, the cost of fuel has rocketed over recent months – although the price of a barrel of oil seems to have stabilized at \$130, (which is probably a false dawn) and this has impacted on other consumables such as **electricity, gas, food and commodities**.

'Greener thinking' is **sensible thinking** since 'the lower your impact on the environment the greater your competitiveness and profitability' – and we will aim to demonstrate this in future editions of **Private Hire News**.



## How to achieve ISO 14001

Just follow these seven steps, which in future editions of **Private Hire News** we'll be looking at each step in more detail. I will also be at the 'LPHCA RoadShow' on **7th October** at the **London Heathrow Marriott International** on the **Bath Road** at **Heathrow**.

**STEP 1 Get serious.** Be serious about wanting to improve your environmental performance. Lead from the top and once you start the ball rolling, keep it rolling in order to maximize on the benefits. Start with drafting an environmental policy.

**STEP 2 Examine.** Identify all your activities that do, or could impact on the environment: cars, vans, electricity, gas, paper and wastage etc. To begin with, just list them.

**STEP 3 Quantify.** Not as difficult as it seems since you'll already have the information available. For example; how much **CO<sub>2</sub>** is produced by your fleet and how much fuel is consumed? Here's a thought: the lower a vehicle's **CO<sub>2</sub>** emissions the higher it's **Miles per Gallon** and **the lower the cost of fuel**. Now apply this analysis to all the other 'impact' activities you identified in step 2. Much more on this in the next edition of **Private Hire News**.

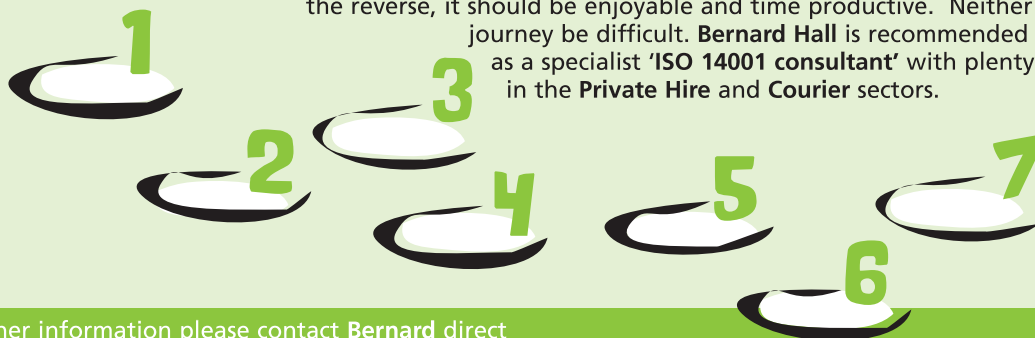
**STEP 4 Stay Legal.** You need to identify all the **environmental laws and regulations** that affect your operations and to prove compliance. Don't worry, we'll help you!

**STEP 5 Plan to change.** You now need to set environmental improvement targets: not big targets but bite-sized chunks since achievable steps are better than fanciful leaps! **ISO 14001** is not about ambition but about what is feasible and practical given the nature of any business.

**STEP 6 Control and improve.** Implement, control, monitor and improve (where possible) the activities you've identified as being needed to meet your targets.

**STEP 7 Tell the World!** Arrange for your chosen 'accredited certification body' \*\* to assess your efforts and, once you've received your certificate, inform all your existing and potential clients.

**Finally.** The journey towards **ISO 14001** should not be arduous or time consuming. Quite the reverse, it should be enjoyable and time productive. Neither should the journey be difficult. **Bernard Hall** is recommended by the **LPHCA** as a specialist '**ISO 14001 consultant**' with plenty of experience in the **Private Hire and Courier** sectors.



For advice and further information please contact **Bernard** direct at **consultindigo@aol.com** or by phone: 020 8641 8141, mobile:0783 3330295. **Bernard** offers a 'pre-commitment assessment' and discounts to **LPHCA** members.

\*\* The **LPHCA** works closely with an 'accredited certification body' details of whom can be obtained by calling or emailing the association.