

CRA SETTING HIGH STANDARDS

The **UK Concrete Repair Association (CRA)** has decided to suspend all full members that have not achieved QA Accredited environmental standard BS EN ISO 14001 by the end of June 2011.

Any member not complying by this date will be suspended for a 3-month period, after which (should they still not comply) they will be excluded from membership altogether.

This is a strong message from the Association, which is keen to further enhance standards within this sector of the construction industry. Currently seven CRA members, from a total of thirty full members (23%), have still to achieve the standard, which will become a new condition of membership.

The CRA was formed in 1989 specifically to set high standards of workmanship and technical competence in the specialist construction area of concrete renovation. The Association believes that by setting such self-regulating standards and procedures, engineers, surveyors, authorities, clients and other specifiers are able to confidently select from established professional organisations for concrete repair and related projects.

In addition to demonstrating a proven track record and overall proven ability, as well as to conforming to the Association's Codes of Practice and to its training requirements, each full specialist contractor and product manufacturer member has (for some time now) been obliged to be Q.A. Accredited to BS EN ISO 9001 as an essential requirement of membership.

BS EN ISO 14001 specifies the requirements for an environmental management system (EMS). It provides a framework around which an organisation can control the environmental impacts of its activities, products and services and to continually improve its environmental performance. Thus, it applies to those environmental aspects that the organisation can control and over which it can be expected to have an influence.

BS EN ISO 14001 is applicable to any organisation that wishes to (1) Implement, maintain and improve an environmental management system, (2) Assure itself of its conformance with its stated environmental policy, (3) Demonstrate such conformance to others, (4) Seek certification/registration of its environmental management system by an external organisation and (5) Make a self-determination and self-declaration of conformance with this international standard.

The CRA and its members can be accessed at: www.cra.org.uk

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