

QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEMS

We are often asked to explain the differences among quality assurance systems.

Most people are aware that ISO 9000 means expansive and expensive documentation. Generally this is true. It is however possible to have a condensed version for small sites with simple processes. It has world wide application and is suitable for all companies intending to export or provide services to international level.

Qbase is a Telarc product that has been registered with Standards NZ. It only has application in NZ and Australia.

TQS1 and TQS2 are Transit NZ standards that are also registered. The TQS1 standard is suitable for contracts over \$500,000 whereas the TQS2 standard is only suitable for small contracts.

TQM means total quality management. It is not a system, it is a training philosophy. Summit Systems provides a system referred to as TQM/TQS1. It is auditable to Qbase and TQS1. Better still, it is designed to help win tenders. We refer to it as a tendering system and we teach clients eight ways of tendering so that they have the best chance of gaining the best tenders at the best price.

ISO 14000 is the international environmental system and is particularly useful for contractors and suppliers that want to get the top tenders either in NZ or overseas. Interestingly enough, Japan is now the world leader in environmental systems with more than 18,000 companies registered to ISO 14000. There will be a time when many clients become registered to ISO 14000 to gain the top tenders against all comers.

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Business Qualifications, Accreditation & Compliance Specialists

News & views from Summit Summer 2006



FUEL TAX – GOVERNMENTS NEEDS TO SPEND MONEY CORRECTLY

In Melbourne it has been reported that the State Government has siphoned more than \$1.5 billion worth of motorists' funds for infrastructure projects and to boost its budget, instead of using the money to cut the road toll. Of the \$2 billion the Government has collected from the Transport Accident Commission, only \$480 million has been spent on road safety projects, Government figures show.

In New Zealand it has been tradition for successive Governments to collect several times the amount that they spend on road improvements. One outcome of this has been high ratios of road deaths and injuries. The blame has been laid at the door of speeding and drunk motorists. The falling death toll on roads in recent years has been associated with an improvement in highway expenditure for capital and maintenance work.

NZ WIDOWS WIN MULTI-MILLION VICTORY AGAINST ACC

The widows of three men killed by asbestos-related diseases have won a court victory which could result in the Accident Compensation Corporation paying out millions of dollars. Their lawyer, John Miller, said the judgment set a precedent for about 30 victims or families with cases before the courts, and for people under ACC's occupational diseases schedule. The Court of Appeal overturned a High Court decision upholding ACC's right to withhold lump-sum compensation from asbestos victims and reclaim payments it had made. It said the relevant clause of the statutes intended to provide ACC cover.



FALL PREVENTION COURSES

It is intended that as from December 2006, we will be able to offer specialized courses for workers involved in height work.

There will be two NZQA unit standards vis 15757 and 21969. They are designed to provide high quality training in the use of harnesses and other fall arresting equipment. The course takes one full day plus a practical test on a job site.



TRADE AND ENTERPRISE SUBSIDY FORMS

It is important to note that the Department of Trade and Enterprise has yet again changed the application forms and they are to be found on the website.

<http://www.nzte.govt.nz/section/12577.aspx>

We encourage all clients to consider the schemes and to plan ahead. You cannot claim retrospectively and projects must be planned in advance. That is what planning is all about! Companies with more than \$5 million turnover or more than 20 full time staff are not eligible.

Capability Building component

Entrepreneurs, start-ups and established businesses can apply for co-funding under the Capability Building component to:

- Employ a business mentor
- Undertake advanced management or technology-based training
- Engage an advisory board for a period of up to three years (businesses only)
- Undertake some strategic market development activities
- Undertake strategic business development activities
- Undertake a feasibility study
- Undertake business and operational excellence activities
- Undertake e-commerce and e-business strategies

They strongly recommend you discuss your application for this co-funding with your client manager, and read the section on ineligible costs. If you do not have an NZTE client manager, contact them on 0800 555 888 before you complete an application form.

Market Development component (currently out of funds)

Businesses can apply for assistance with the implementation of significant international market development initiatives, including expenditure related to:

- Market visits
- In-market representation
- Advertising and promotion
- Marketing materials
- Trade fairs and events
- Market research.



CIVIL INFRASTRUCTURE INDUCTION AWARENESS COURSES

We are pleased to announce that as from December 2006 we intend to offer Health and Safety induction awareness courses for Civil Infrastructure workers. The courses will take about four hours.

They will be compulsory for all contractors seeking to do Transit NZ work. In addition, the larger local bodies will probably follow the Transit NZ requirements and insist on their contractors being similarly qualified.

BUSINESS PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Summit Systems has a beneficial arrangement with Business Performance International.

For a period of 100 days you can access a free Business Performance review tool to check out your status. It only takes about 20 minutes of your time to go through the 20 questions. The questions are designed to help you focus on business profitability and performance. You can also complete the 40 or 80 questions at half the normal price down to 10 March 2007.

You should contact your local Consultant to gain this important information. The tool is designed to help the average business improve by approximately \$40,000 per annum. The return on your investment (if you had to pay the full fee) would be about 400%. Some sites gain more than 500% return on their investment.

