

# Your Network



January 2011

## Updates



# Is your Health & Safety Consultant up to the Governments standard?

THE Government has tasked Lord Young to ensure Safety Consultants provide proportionate and sensible advice to SMEs. The Health and Safety Executive has confirmed that a new national register of occupational safety consultants will be set up to help employer's access good quality, proportionate advice.

The Occupational Safety Consultants Register (OSCR) will go live in January 2011.

It will provide firms with details of consultants who have met the highest qualification standard of recognised professional bodies and who are bound by a code of conduct that requires them to only give advice which is sensible and proportionate.

The register has been developed by HSE and a network of professional bodies representing safety consultants across Britain.

Employers will visit a single website that helps them to find local advisers with experience relevant to their sector.

Judith Hackitt, the HSE chair, said: "Lord Young quite rightly recognised that

businesses find it difficult to know when they need expert safety advice and where to go to get it. The Occupational Safety Consultants Register will make it easier to identify consultants who meet the highest standards within their professional bodies." To be eligible to join the register, individual consultants will need to be either Chartered members of the safety bodies IOSH, CIEH or REHIS or a Fellow of the IIRSM.

Membership will mean they have a commitment to continuous professional development, a degree equivalent qualification, two years' experience, professional indemnity insurance and are bound by a code of conduct to only providing sensible and proportionate advice.

The scheme will be managed by the professional bodies themselves through a not-for-profit company, with HSE providing support.

Membership of OSCR will be voluntary. There will be an annual administration fee to be paid, although the level has yet to be set.



**Stephen Smith, Sphere Risk Health & Safety Management**

Stephen Smith, Director of Sphere Risk Health & Safety Management Ltd, fully agrees with Lord Young's approach and meets the requirements of the new OSCR: "As from January 2011 Sphere will be one of the first Health & Safety Consultancies to go onto this voluntary scheme," he said.



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