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**Health and Safety; just how serious are organisations about protecting their staff?**

BSI Management Systems today warns that companies need to be doing more to protect the health and safety of employees and customers. The company reports that over 90% of its customers who recognise the benefits of being certified to the ISO 9001 standard for quality, have still not implemented the health and safety standard, BS OHSAS 18001. This surprising statistic highlights the critical need for organisations to take measures to reduce the risks associated with health and safety in the working environment for employees, customers and the general public.

“Organisations can no longer ignore responsibilities to the health and safety of their staff and customers,” comments Vicki Gomersall, Health and Safety Product Marketing Manager, BSI Management Systems. “Furthermore the introduction of the Corporate Manslaughter Act 2007 now means that companies face fines if found guilty of a gross breach of Duty of Care. “

“The best safeguard to protect the organisation and its employees, and to avoid prosecution, is getting it right first time, every time. BS OHSAS 18001 is a recognised method for promoting a safe and healthy working environment by providing a framework that allows the organisation to consistently identify and control its health and safety risks, reduce the potential for accidents, aid legislative compliance and improve overall performance. Implementation of such a management system can also lead to considerable cost saving and productivity benefits for the business including reduced sickness, absenteeism and reducing the number of claims made to insurance companies.”

BSI Management Systems will be speaking at the upcoming IOSH conference at the BT Convention Centre in Liverpool. The event takes place on 17 – 18<sup>th</sup> March and invites health and safety professionals from a number of industries including construction, education and mining. BSI Management Systems has been invited to speak at the event about the benefits of using management systems to manage health and safety risks.

More information about the conference can be found at <http://www.ioshconference.co.uk/>

For further information about BSI Management Systems and OHSAS 18001, please visit <http://www.bsigroup.co.uk/>

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### Notes to editors

- In the UK, there were 136,771 **workplace injuries** reported in 2007/2008.
- 2007/2008 also saw 229 workplace fatalities equating to a rate of 0.8 per 100,000 workers.
- Over 34 million **working days are lost** annually as a result of workplace accidents, injuries and ill-health, this equates to 1.4 days per worker.
- Health and Safety failures currently **cost** Britain's employers up to £6.5 billion every year.

Source: Health & Safety Executive

### About BSI Management Systems

BSI Management Systems is one of the world's largest certification bodies, with over 60,000 certified locations and clients in more than 100 countries. Operating through a global network, BSI Management Systems provides assessment, certification and training services in all critical areas of management disciplines including:

- Business continuity
- Environment
- Food safety
- Health & safety
- Information security
- Integrated management
- Quality
- Social accountability
- Sustainable development
- IT service management

BSI Management Systems is part of **BSI group**, a global independent business services organisation that inspires confidence and delivers assurance to customers with standards-based solutions. Originating as the world's first national standards body, the group has over 2,250 staff in more than 50 global offices. The group's key offerings are:

- Development and sale of private, national and international standards and supporting information
- Second and third-party management systems assessment and certification
- Product testing and certification of services and products
- Performance management software solutions
- Training services in support of standards implementation and business best practice

For further information please visit: [www.bsigroup.com](http://www.bsigroup.com)