

Clean sweep for hygiene firm

Ventilation hygiene and legionella control contractor Swiftclean has achieved an unusual 'full house' of international management certifications.

It has met the standards required for the environmental management certified registration ISO 14001 while, at the same time, securing the quality management standard ISO 9001 and the occupational health and safety management certification OHSAS 18001. The management system audits and certification was carried out by ACMS an independent UKAS accredited registration organisation

This impressive achievement was marked by a special presentation ceremony at Esca House the headquarters of the HVCA where Swiftclean managing director Gary Nicholls received all three registration certificates from the association's deputy chief executive Roderick Pettigrew.



"At a time when many companies are looking to make cuts in people and expenditure, it is refreshing to see Swiftclean making such a substantial commitment to quality," said Pettigrew. "It is more important than ever that contractors give themselves a competitive edge while also investing in future expansion for when the markets recover."

From an Essex based formation, Swiftclean has grown from a standing start in the Nicholls family shed 27 years ago to being a profitable, market leading, £4m plus turnover business employing over 80 people and offering services throughout the UK. Expansion in recent years has been rapid with staff numbers doubling since 2006 and Mr Nicholls said the company was still on target to eventually reach £10m turnover and 150 employees.

"There is no doubt that recent changes in legislation have helped us," said Nicholls, who is also chairman of the HVCA's Ventilation Hygiene group branch. "The new fire safety order and a number of high profile legionella

outbreaks and prosecutions have prompted many building operators to seek specialist expertise from companies like ours.”

Swiftclean provides legionella risk assessment, monitoring and control; ventilation extract and ductwork cleaning, disinfection of water tanks and pipework; kitchen extract fire risk assessments; and log books while also ensuring customers comply with all the relevant legislation.

The ability to offer such a comprehensive package of services has fuelled the company’s growth, but also prompted the management team to look closely at how the business was structured.

“With so many new people coming on board, it was important to have concise documented processes in place and to have our working practices properly planned and logged,” said Nicholls. “Hence our decision to invest time and money in achieving these three prestigious management system certified registrations .”

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