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Environmental Management in Construction

Alan Griffith

MSc, PhD, MCIOB, MIMgt

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Preface

Organisations of many kinds, perhaps none more so than those within the construction industry, are increasingly aware of the growing need to mitigate the potentially harmful effects of their business upon the environment. Environmental management is specifically concerned with environmental protection and environmental performance through managing the environmental effects of an organisation's business. Environmental management encompasses those aspects of policy, strategy, procedures and practice that form the organisation's response to its environmental situation.

A formal and structured approach to environmental management is essential in demonstrating, with assurance, that an organisation complies with current policy and legislation but, moreover, that it is committed to actively addressing environmental issues. The vehicle for this is the environmental management system, one that follows BS 7750: Specification for Environmental Management Systems. Such a system not only reflects an appropriate environmental management response but prepares the organisation for likely involvement in environmental assessment or auditing schemes, an increasing demand in many sectors of business today.

The construction industry has always had an unequivocal and considerable effect upon the environment but increasing concern in many quarters and specifically more stringent legislation means that environmental management will become a consideration central to its constitution and activity. Every organisation within the construction industry must take cognisance of its environmental situation.

Presented in three main sections, this book sets out to provide an insight into the concept of environmental management and its systems.

Part A presents an introduction to environmental management, outlining the management concepts and its importance in business today. Part B examines environmental management system development, highlighting appropriate specifications, detailed requirements of a system and developing a system within an organisation. Part C focuses upon the practical application of environmental management within the construction industry, taking the concept through development, briefing, design and contract administration processes.

From the outset, environmental management can only be realised if the many and diverse factors that contribute to the construction process are brought together and, moreover, only if construction professionals pursue environmental management with integrity and commitment. Successful environmental management cannot and will not happen by itself.

Alan Griffith