

“When the sea was calm
All ships alike
Showed mastership in floating”
William Shakespeare from Coriolanus

RISK SOLUTIONS NEWS

Spring 2002

Staff News

We have recently added some new faces to the ranks.



Brian Campbell brings his experience of applying risk techniques in the oil & gas sector



Darren Mullan has extensive management experience in the food processing industry



Jon Pocock has a strong rail background with particular expertise in asset condition assessment.

Further details of the team can be found in the About Us section of our [web site](#).

We attach high importance to personal development and are pleased to announce that four of our team completed MBAs over the last year. They were Chris Rees, Mike Robertson, John Baker and Al Chegini.

John achieved another milestone last year when he led another of our consultants, Eleanor, up the aisle.

Web Site Changes

Recent changes to our web site include an online quiz, where visitors can test their knowledge of transport safety (with access to *expert* advice on three occasions), staff changes and details of some recent high-profile projects.

A 'ticker list' has also been added to our home page so that these and future changes can be easily accessed.

Breaking the Mould

We held our sixth client event in September at Leighton House, the home of leading Victorian artist Lord Leighton.

Anyone who has attended one of our previous evenings will know that we like to do things a little differently, and this was no exception. Guests were invited to demonstrate their skill at visual arts, photography, poetry and sculpture to explore risk topics under the theme "Breaking the Mould". Our next event will be at Kensington Roof Gardens on Tuesday 25th June.



Arab Hall, Leighton House
(complete with water hazard)

Sheep or Cow?

Remember the sheep that turned out to be cow? DEFRA commissioned Risk Solutions to find out at what point and why this might have happened.

We visited all of the organisations involved in the long series of experiments that began in the early 1990's, audited files, interviewed staff and observed samples remaining in store. Poor labelling and control of storage meant that substitution of samples could have happened at a number of points.

We concluded that the most likely explanation was that the samples were exchanged with others from a similar set of experiments on cow brains - the samples used to explore whether BSE could be in the national sheep flock were almost certainly from cows!

Details of our investigation, and a parallel audit by the UK Accreditation Service (UKAS), are available on the DEFRA web site at www.defra.gov.uk.



Rolling Stock Standards

London Underground's engineering standards are a primary risk control mechanism and have evolved to become highly prescriptive. The standards perform a central role in the Public Private Partnership and, to allow the Infracos freedom to manage the assets in innovative ways that suit their business, the output requirements need to be stated in a clear and coherent way. Risk Solutions is reviewing the current suite of over 140 rolling stock standards, distilling them into a smaller set that identify mandatory requirements and are clearly risk-based.

Essentially the objective is to manage the transition from one risk management regime to another. The important safety implications for LUL mean that the rationale for the changes must be robust and auditable. We are achieving this by developing a series of risk-control matrices that classify individual clauses in the existing standards and map them onto the new suite, thereby establishing a full audit trail.



Risk Management Survey

In 2001 we undertook an extensive benchmarking survey into risk management practices in 51 major UK based organisations. Questionnaires and interviews were used to gauge companies' appetites for taking risks and how these are controlled. There has been a significant shift in attitudes to risk management since we conducted our last survey 2 years ago, with greater realisation that managing risk effectively is the key to business success. Recurring themes in the latest survey are how to measure the effectiveness of risk management arrangements and extending the controls to consider "people risks" more methodically.

Companies that participated in the survey have received individual benchmarking reports and were invited to attend a workshop to debate the initial findings.

