

## ISO 14001 Case Study

### Freshfields go for gold with ISO 14001

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP (Freshfields) is one of the leading providers of legal services in the UK. With offices across the globe, the history of the firm in London can be traced back definitively to 1743. Based in London's bustling Fleet Street, the UK practice remains strong and broadly based with market leading positions in all core areas, offering a range of domestic and international legal advice across multiple practices, industries and jurisdictions.

With over 800 lawyers and 500 support staff in the London office, the practice aims to provide outstanding value in their areas of expertise. This was demonstrated during the delivery of the 2012 London Olympics when Freshfields provided all the key legal services to the London organising committee (LOCOG).

Through collaborations with other businesses and NGO's, Freshfields were already fully committed to managing their environmental impact effectively, but in 2011 the practice decided to pursue certification to ISO14001 to formalise its approach to environmental management and to demonstrate its commitment to good environmental practices through third party certification of the management system. The aim was to achieve certification to ISO 14001 by the end of 2012.



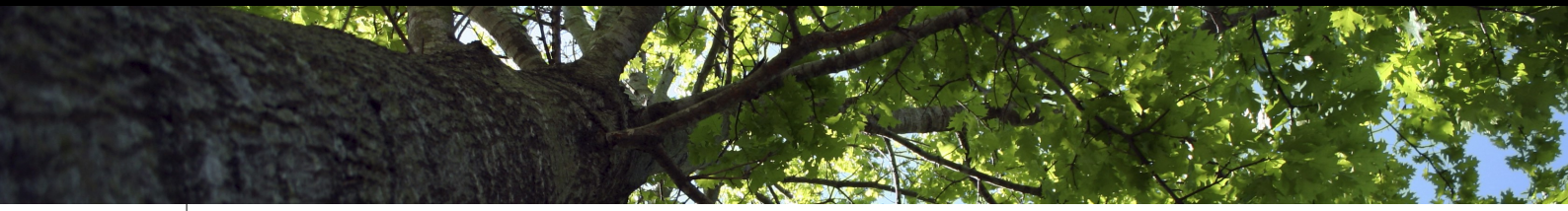
#### Implementation...

Blackmores' consultancy services were engaged in May 2012 to assist with the creation and implementation of the Environmental Management System (EMS) at the London office. A draft EMS system had already been created and this was reviewed during a comprehensive Gap Analysis where Blackmores were able to check its compliance with the ISO14001 standard and advise on any areas where the system could be potentially enhanced.

Identification of legal and other requirements was a relatively easy task, based on the practice's core competencies; this included the identification of other requirements which included membership of the Legal Sector Alliance and support for UNICEF's Climate Positive programme.

Following this, it was possible to identify and document key environmental aspects that relate to the practice. These included the use of energy, use of resources (paper), waste streams from the London office, and also positive aspects such as the remains of the historically significant Whitefriars monastery in the lower levels of the building.

[continued overleaf...](#)



The formalisation of documented objectives, targets and programmes helped to pull together various programmes that were running in the practice and gave direction for the owners. This also provided a framework to establish a formal environmental policy for the practice that has now been adopted globally.

Further work took place to formalise working practices through the creation of documented operating procedures aimed at reducing energy use and formalising waste management processes. Establishment of appropriate environmental risk management controls included the storage and use of hazardous substances, and emergency preparedness and response, which was then linked to the business continuity plan for the practice.

### **Communication and compliance...**

Communication to the practice took place through use of presentations and training was given by Freshfields staff and Blackmores' consultants to key personnel affected by the implementation of the management system.

Following this, a full internal audit of the management system was undertaken by Blackmores. The audit programme included a comprehensive legal compliance audit, internal audits of operational controls and system procedures to ensure they were in place and compliant with requirements.

The practice was keen to demonstrate the system's compliance to ISO14001 and in December 2012 undertook a third party certification audit with Lloyds Register Quality Assurance (LRQA), a UKAS Accredited Certification Body. This resulted in the practice being awarded certification to ISO14001 in line with the planned timescales for the project.

### **Continuing on success...**

Stacey Collins, speaking on behalf of Freshfields said, *"We are working to improve our environmental performance in a cost-effective way. We're adapting working practices; raising awareness; investing in energy-efficient technology; and minimising waste and use of resources"*.

It is exciting to see Freshfields moving forward with their determination to safeguarding the environment in line with their CSR commitments. Blackmores looks forward to working with Freshfields in the future to further enhance their environmental credentials.

