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Press release

Industry first for WRG on demonstrating 'continuing competence'

Waste Recycling Group's Stuart Richardson has become the first professional in the waste industry to gain a Certificate of Continuing Competence as part of a new Technical Competence Scheme.



From Left to Right – Derek Chatting, Dr Lawrence Strong, Don Glaister (SERAC), Stuart Richardson

Developed jointly by the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM) and the Waste Management Industry Training and Advisory Board (WAMITAB), the scheme was approved by Defra and the Welsh Assembly Government last December and introduced, amongst other things, the requirement for waste professionals to demonstrate their competency every two years.

The certificate, which demonstrates that Stuart Richardson, a landfill site manager, has the required level of knowledge across a range of subjects, including legislation, health and safety, environmental protection and hazardous waste landfill, was presented by WAMITAB's Director General Lawrence Strong at WRG's Buckden Landfill site on 24 April 2009.

Derek Chatting, Group Training Manager at Waste Recycling Group, said: "We are very pleased, but not surprised, that Stuart passed first time. It vindicates our in-house approach to ensuring that our facility managers are kept up to date ensuring that we can continue to meet the high standards of operational competence required both by our customers and the legislator for today's manager."

“Continuing competence is an important element in this fast moving industry, where technology choices are expanding rapidly and new legislative requirements are coming into force,” explains Lawrence Strong. “It runs over a two year period during which candidates must update and demonstrate their knowledge about subjects specified in a ‘syllabus’ set by a cross-industry working party. During this first two-year period the people who need to demonstrate Continuing Competence are those that achieved a CoTC before 22 December 2008, those who are ‘deemed’ competent and those who have been assessed by the Environment Agency.”

Candidates can choose how they update their knowledge but they must complete the learning and be tested successfully on it within the two year timeframe at one of around 50 test centres across England and Wales.

Photo caption: Derek Chatting Group Training Manager WRG, Dr Lawrence Strong Director general WAMITAB, Don Glaister, Managing Director, SERAC Limited and Buckden Landfill Site Manager Stuart Richardson.

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1. The CIWM/WAMITAB Technical Competence Scheme encompasses three key changes to the technical competence framework. It acknowledges and caters for different risk levels to reflect the growing diversity of waste treatment technologies, it provides the flexibility to accommodate individual learning preferences and encourage quicker and wider uptake, and it introduces the requirement for ‘continuing competence’.

It applies to all technically competent persons (i.e. current CoTC holders), including those who have been ‘deemed competent’ or Environment Agency assessed. Existing operators of permitted facilities do not necessarily need to take any action now but will in due course be required to demonstrate ‘continuing competence’, either by joining the CIWM/WAMITAB scheme or any other scheme approved by Defra and the Welsh Assembly Government. For new entrants, the scheme applies immediately. More details can be found at www.wamitab.org.uk or www.ciwm.co.uk.

2. Waste Recycling Group Limited, a leading UK waste management and energy recovery company, is part of Fomento de Construcciones y Contratas (FCC) the international construction and services group (www.fcc.es). FCC in the UK comprises WRG and Focsa Services (UK) Ltd. Focused on delivering integrated waste management and energy recovery solutions to meet national, regional and local needs, WRG operates facilities for the reception, recycling and disposal of waste, including a network of waste transfer and recycling centres and a regional network of landfill sites.

3. The Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM) is the leading professional body for the waste management sector representing over 7000 individuals in the UK and overseas. Established in 1898, CIWM is a non profit-making organisation, dedicated to the promotion of professional competence amongst waste managers. CIWM seeks to raise standards for those working in and with the sector by producing best practice guidance, developing educational and training initiatives, and providing information on key waste-related issues. Comprehensive information about CIWM can be found at www.ciwm.co.uk

4. WAMITAB was established in 1989 with a remit to determine and advise on policy and standards of education, qualifications and training for all employees in the Waste Management Industry. WAMITAB is the awarding body for the waste management industry in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and joint awarding body, with SQA, for qualifications in Scotland. More information can be found at www.wamitab.org.uk

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