

Another year has passed – and what a year for INSPEC! A year of change; of opportunities arising and taken; of expansion; of success.

In this issue of Reporter, you will see the word “new” used often – *new* staff, *new* buildings, *new* equipment, *new* services and, pleasingly, more *new* customers from – *new* countries.

Very interesting and exciting times!

But let’s not forget “old”

Old values – our Quality Policy includes fulfilling the principles of providing efficient and economic services, independently assessed and delivered accurately and professionally to our clients. Be assured that these values will be maintained.

Old customers – where would we be without you? This is a good time to thank you for your loyalty.

New UK headquarters

We mentioned in our last issue of Reporter that we were building a new laboratory. Well that was an understatement really – we have built not only one new laboratory, but several. And some of these represent new departures for INSPEC.

At the same time, we have brought together all of our UK activities under one roof – giving the obvious benefits of centralization – not the least of which is improved service for you, our customer!

Our new, combined facility is located on our own land in the city of Salford, close to Manchester. It provides 14,000 m² (1,300m²) of floor area, all custom-designed for the activities performed – testing, certification, engineering and administration.

Needless to say, all of our UKAS, and other, accreditations have been maintained for those activities which have relocated.

During the coming year we will be consolidating and streamlining our systems, which, in turn, will make for a more efficient operation all around. These changes will doubtless result in further benefits for our customers.

But it takes more than just the buildings and organization. We have employed further professional staff and invested in more equipment.

We are enthusiastically following our goal of being the best in the world for the testing and certification of PPE.

New certification offices

Since its inception in 1991, our Certification Services Department was based in the South of England. During the recent re-organization, we decided to relocate this operation to be within our new headquarters in the North. The transition has been successful, with minimal disruption to our service.

The next step forward is to implement convergence of the (previously separate) systems that drive the certification and testing operations - whilst maintaining the necessary impartiality and confidentiality. The outcome will be a far more efficient operation, both for INSPEC and our customers.

New chemical laboratory

Since the year 2000, INSPEC has operated a chemical testing laboratory. However this was a rented facility. Within the new UK headquarters, we have now built our own, fully-equipped laboratory. We have taken the opportunity to upgrade existing equipment and expand our capabilities with the purchase of additional state-of-the-art instrumentation. Consequently, we are now able to offer an increased range of gas and chemical tests for clothing, glove and respiratory PPE, with a much improved turn-around time.



New acoustic laboratory

As part of the development of our new UK headquarters, we have built an anechoic room and a reverberation room. These facilities, together with the associated, start-of-the-art electronic instrumentation which we have also installed, give us, for the first time, a complete, *in-house* capability for the subjective testing of all types of hearing protectors. This independence provides us complete control of testing schedules, which will result in reduced turn-around times for providing the attenuation data for these devices.

New activities in China

While our European staff have been developing our UK site, our counterparts on the other side of the world have also been busy, expanding their services into new geographical areas and new product areas.

Our Asia-Pacific Representative Office is now serving new customers from Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, South Korea and Sri Lanka.

The product range has expanded too, and now includes fire and heat resistant clothing and gloves, gas filtration devices breathing apparatus and protective footwear.

To maintain our level of service in the region, we have employed a new certification officer, Mr YH Heoh. He will be handling a wide range of technical matters and visiting customers to perform assessments.

New customers from New countries

Russian roulette it was not, when the Russian company ROSOMZ chose INSPEC to process their application for testing and certification of their Titan series of face-shields. Certification, allowing them to apply the CE mark to their products, was issued in August. They are our first Russian customer and we wish them all the best for the future.

Turkish delight describes the sentiments of the Turkish company Bava, when they heard that their application for CE certification had been completed in early June. Following successful testing against EN352 Part 2, certification covers their model Silent earplugs. INSPEC is very proud to have issued our first certificate to a Turkish company.

Pass it on

In case we have missed others in your company who may be interested in this Reporter, please pass it on

How good is your motorcycle helmet?

INSPEC is very pleased to announce that, following an exhaustive tendering process, it has been awarded two substantial contracts by the UK Government, Department for Transport (DfT).

The first is for the supply of test equipment to evaluate the impact performance of motorcyclists' helmets, using non-standard techniques.

The second is a four-year contract established to assess the impact performance of all helmet models currently on sale in the UK. Whilst helmets available in Europe have to meet certain well acknowledged standards, many do so to a greater or lesser degree. The purpose of this project is to test the helmets against more searching criteria, analyze the results and grade the helmets using a points system. Potential customers will then have more information upon which to base their selection.

INSPEC will do all of the testing and supply the results to DfT, who will then perform the data analysis and determine the scores. Clearly this is a very important project and the results will be widely publicized in the UK media.

We do test equipment too

In addition to testing and certification services, we also provide test equipment. This has always been a fairly low-key activity, but, since our last issue, we have enhanced our Engineering Department to a complement of three full-time engineers. During the coming months, we plan to promote and concentrate

more on this aspect of INSPEC's activities. We are able to supply the special test equipment that is so often called up in the product standards (but with no clue as to where to obtain it!) So, if you are having trouble finding that particular test rig, do give us a call. The chances are we can help.

Order! Order!

INSPEC is pleased to be able to supplement the service that we already offer for the testing of Public Order helmets. As the only approved laboratory, we can now offer a testing service for two further standards developed by the UK Home Office Police Scientific Development Branch (HOSDB).



The first is the Slash Resistance standard introduced in 2006. More recently, INSPEC has been chosen as the only approved laboratory for testing to the new HOSDB standard for Limb & Torso Blunt Trauma Protectors. The necessary equipment is in the final stages of installation and testing will be on offer during September 2007. CE type examination and certification will be available soon thereafter.

Exhibition time – again!

As in previous years, we will be at both the A+A and the NSC exhibitions. The A+A is in Dusseldorf, as usual, in September this year, and the NSC is in Chicago in October.

At the A+A, we will have our own stand and all 3 senior managers from INSPEC will be present –

Andrew Diamond
Testing Services

Kevin Warren
Certification Services

CS Yap
Asia-Pacific Representative Office

CS speaks Mandarin (among other languages) and will be more than happy to help with any questions concerning our activities in the Asia-Pacific region.

The NSC follows hard on the heels of the A+A this year, so it is very possible we will see some of you twice in as many months! As before, we will be with SEI, our USA partners. If you have any interest in combining USA and European certifications, quality systems assessments, test programmes or ISO9001, please do come and see us. Of course, if you want just to visit and say hello, we will be delighted to see you!

Show details:

A+A, Düsseldorf
18 to 21 September, Hall 6, Stand 6A80

NSC, Chicago
15 to 17 October, Booth 1513.

If you have any particular aspects of testing or certification that you would like to discuss in detail, please feel free to make an appointment for either show.

See our contact details below.

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