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Waste firm Sapphire hits treble top in ISO awards

Sapphire Energy Recovery – the waste processing and resource recovery business owned by Lafarge Cement – has achieved a major industry coup by gaining certification from BSI to three management system standards: quality, environment *and* health and safety.

Certificates for ISO 9001 (for quality management), ISO 14001 (for environmental compliance) and OHSAS 18001 (for health and safety) were handed out to members of the Sapphire team by BSI representative Colin Rushmere at a recent ceremony held to mark the occasion at Lafarge Cement's head office.

Sapphire is a growing force in the UK waste sector. It is the UK's leading processor of used tyres, and it also sources and manages the introduction of a range of waste-derived fuels and raw materials for the cement industry.

The company is fully owned by Lafarge Cement, but for the first time has undergone audits for the quality, environment and health standards as a standalone business.

"Previously we would have come under the umbrella of our parent company when looking to achieve such standards, but as our profile grows in the waste processing and resource recovery sector we felt it was important for our customers to see that we had independent certification," explained Andy Jones, who coordinates health, safety, environmental and quality compliance for Sapphire.

"We are not aware of any other companies in our sector to hold such high profile certification in all three of the areas that matter most: safety, environment and quality, and we're really proud to have achieved this milestone."

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The certifications were awarded following independent reviews from BSI, the National Standards Body of the UK. Audits are done on a two year rolling cycle, during which a series of Sapphire sites underwent spot checks.

“Our last visit showed no non-conformances at all in any of the audit procedures we carried out, which was an excellent performance for a company operating in a high risk area such as waste processing,” said Janet Walden, assessor for BSI.

“It’s good to see a company not only taking the standards seriously, but incorporating them into their day to day business in way that make doing the right thing in the right way at the right time the natural thing to do.”

Sapphire’s sites are also registered to the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) and regularly monitored by the Environment Agency.

For more information, visit www.sapphirerecovery.co.uk, or call 08452 602040.

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Notes to editors:

Sapphire Energy Recovery

- Sapphire Energy Recovery is a resource recovery business owned by Lafarge Cement UK. It sources alternative fuels and raw materials for use by the cement industry, and carefully manages the introduction and use of such materials in cement kilns around the country.
- Sapphire Energy Recovery provides waste producers with an alternative to landfill or other disposal routes, and cement producers with replacement materials that can turn waste to energy and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. It also provides alternative raw materials thereby reducing reliance on natural resources.
- Sapphire Energy Recovery also offers a sustainable solution to the processing of end-of-life tyres in the UK by providing them for use as an alternative fuel for the cement industry.

Lafarge Cement

- Lafarge Cement is part of the Lafarge Group, the world leader in building materials, with top-ranking positions in all of its businesses: Cement, Aggregates & Concrete and Gypsum. With 90,000 employees in 76 countries, Lafarge posted sales of Euros 17.6 billion and net income of Euros 1.9 billion in 2007.