

DRIVING into the lead with fast-track HERS registration

West Sussex County Council



West Sussex County Council has been the first to experience the 'fast-track' route for registering with HERS. This service is offered by HEA / ASLEC exclusively for clients and others seeking Approved Person Registration, although it is not suitable for all operatives.

Seven street lighting staff and two traffic signals staff made up the first group to go through the fast-track training for HERS registration. The response from the staff has been very positive, citing that the training was well planned and focused on individual needs taking into

account any previous education, training and experience each person had already achieved. Plans for additional groups to undergo the training are already planned, which will include those employees who deal with highway electrical supplies such as bus information and vehicle activated signs.

The council recognised that HERS was highly relevant to their work and more specific in the detail of the training than the other options available to them. They also felt it was important to lead by example as they specify HERS in contracts, thereby asking all their contractors to register and adopt HERS.

Kevin Moss, Principal Engineer-Street Lighting for West Sussex County Council said: "The process we went through for registering with HERS was very straight-forward and provided us with good value for money. There was a high level of supervision given during the series of training days that allowed for each staff member to build up their portfolios and with the level of trainer contact given, it meant there were very few follow up queries.

"Now that we have adopted HERS, our site inspection risk assessment has been updated and we will be developing our systems based on the recommendations provided. With HERS

we can be assured that our staff training is up to date and that they are competent to do the jobs assigned to them.

"To have that reassurance is a great advantage when it comes to managing the workflow. The quality of service we provide is very high and now, with HERS, it is continuously monitored which will guarantee consistency in the delivery of our service. HERS is a great scheme which should be regarded as the industry standard and be an integral part of any contract specification."



The Highways Electrical Registration Scheme (HERS) is the Competency Scheme for highway electrical works.

It requires that employees working in the highway electrical industry be assessed for competence by their employers and be issued with a certificate that identifies the employee as an Authorised Person allowed to carry out work appropriate to the level of competence against which they have been assessed. In addition, the Scheme requires that a Technical Audit be carried out at intervals no greater than every two years to ensure the validity of the assessment process.