Implementation of Competence Management System (CMS) Standard, Version 5

I am writing to inform you about arrangements in relation to the implementation of the Version 5 Competence Management System (CMS) standard, which updates and ensures the CMS scheme remains current. Version 5 supersedes and replaces the Competence Management System (CMS) standard, Version 4 April 2015.

The Version 5 CMS standard
This standard has been updated to reflect the requirements for management system standards. These requirements include a high-level structure, identical core text, and common terms with core definitions, designed to benefit users implementing multiple management system standards. The new version is aligned with Annex SL, which makes it more compatible with other management systems standards like ISO 9001, ISO14001, and makes the integration even easier.

The changes when implemented and maintained properly will bring:

- better integration with other business activities
- enhancement of the process approach and PDCA cycle
- greater involvement of senior management in the CMS

The overall aim of this standard is to comply with the environmental permit, support environmental protection and protect human health from the waste management process. The competence of people at each level in the organisation whose work affects this protection is essential. A competence management system will enable operators to demonstrate that they have the 'technical competence' required to satisfy regulatory requirements and comply with the environmental permit.

Transition process and timescales
Version 5 of the CMS standard will be published for Certification Bodies to begin the process of gaining UKAS accreditation from 9 September 2021.

The transition period will end on 31 March 2024.

The following are the key dates in the roll out of the Version 5 CMS standard:

Activity	Date
Certification bodies issued Version 5 CMS standard	15 September 2021

Version 5 CMS standard available to companies to purchase from Energy & Utility Skills online shop	4 October 2021
UKAS ready to accredit certifications bodies to the new v5 standard	30 November 2021
Certification bodies ready to be accredited by UKAS	31 December 2021
Certification bodies ready to offer Version 5 CMS standard	31 March 2022
No new contracts or certificates for Version 4 CMS standard	31 March 2023
Version 4 certificates no longer valid (end of transition period)	31 March 2024

Notes:

1) For companies looking to transition from Version 4 to Version 5 CMS standard delivery, the Version 5 CMS standard will be available to purchase online from 4 October. Companies must wait, however, until 31 March 22 before certification bodies can formally begin to start offering accredited certification to companies on Version 5 of the standard. (Where a certification body is Version 5 accredited, however, and ready to go before 31 March 2022, then it may be possible for companies to start the process of transition to Version 5 earlier than indicated here.)

2) In order to purchase a licensed version of the Version CMS standard, companies should go to the CMS webpage on the EUSR website (Competence Management System - Energy & Utility Skills Register (eusr.co.uk)) and follow the link to the online shop. Companies will need to demonstrate to certification bodies for the purposes of accredited certification that they have their own licensed copy of the CMS standard. A licensed version of the standard costs £100.

3) Whilst companies are strongly recommended to transition from Version 4 to Version 5 of the CMS standards as soon as possible, there are allowances within the transition plan for companies to complete already started Version 4 certification processes with certification bodies. You will note, however, that these must be completed by 31 March 2023, and there is then an expectation that full transition to Version 5 of the standards must have been completed by 31 March 2024.

We hope that this transition process is clear, but if you have any questions or concerns, then please let us know at: productmanagement@euskills.co.uk