# Case Study





## **Company profile**

Company: Trinity House

Contact: Rear Admiral J de Halpert

Title: Chief Executive and Director of Safety

### **Continual development**

Trinity House is the General Lighthouse Authority for England, Wales, the Channel Islands and Gibraltar, responsible for a range of general aids to navigation, from lighthouses to radar beacons.

It's also a charitable organisation dedicated to the safety, welfare and training of mariners, as well as a Deep Sea Pilotage Authority providing expert navigators for ships trading in northern European waters.

## Health and safety at Trinity House

"Our results have been excellent – accidents down by 20%, and absences through injury by 13%; and importantly, a safety culture that is well bedded within the whole organisation at sea and ashore."

Rear Admiral J de Halpert

Trinity House personnel receive health and safety training, some up to NEBOSH standard. The main health and safety concerns at Trinity were identified as a lack of instruction to ensure a safe system of work and no records to prove if any action to improve health and safety had taken place.

Trinity House first chose to consult RoSPA in 1995, when the executive was looking for an internationally acceptable standard to aim for. This standard was BS9001.

The RoSPA QSA audit was ideal for assisting in this aim as the system was consistent with the ISO standard. The audit itself is based on the principles of HSG65 and BS8800

"The RoSPA QSA fitted into the Trinity House systematic approach to the management of all its activities. Trinity House operates an integrated management system that is also certified against ISO9001 and ISO14001.

A health and safety element was critical to ensure that we had independent validation of our system that is based on a "prevention rather than cure" approach. Many of our employees carry out difficult tasks, sometimes in potentially hazardous conditions.

Confirmation that our approach meets the highest standards for health and safety management is fundamental in safeguarding our people."

Steven Dunning, Planning and Performance Manager

and has now been updated to include all parts of the guidance document OHSAS18001.

In 1997, Trinity House became the second company to achieve Level 5 accreditation in a RoSPA QSA audit. This achievement is widely recognised as the pinnacle of health and safety achievement, as it is only awarded following consistently high scores in the rigorous audit process.

Trinity House then returned to RoSPA for two further audits in 2001 and 2003 in order to retain their Level 5 standard.



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#### **During the audit**

- Lack of instruction to ensure a safe system of work
- · No records to prove that actions had taken place
- More action needed to prevent access to danger areas for employees
- Some weakness in occupational health management

### Following the audit

- Trinity House now produce both quarterly and annual reports to more effectively monitor health and safety
- All staff are actively encouraged to report accidents and potential risk is investigated to a level dependent upon its severity
- On attaining level five accreditation, Trinity House enjoyed a large amount of local media publicity which also benefited staff morale
- The procedures for the health and safety systems are now very much in place and all employees are aware of their responsibilities
- The whole process has helped to raise standards and the workforce are extremely proud of their achievement in this area

"The sea is an ever-changing and unforgiving environment to work in, and it requires total respect from all of us. Whether handling heavy buoys and chains or maintaining a lighthouse on a rocky outcrop all in Trinity House need a deep and instinctive understanding of safety. That is why we turned to ROSPA to ensure that safety underpins all our work."

Rear Admiral J de Halpert



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