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Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics
Unit 13, Ball Mill Top Business Park
Grimley, Worcestershire WR2 6LS
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0) 1905 640 400
E-mail: solargardukinfo@saint-gobain.com
www.solargard.co.uk



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WARNING: Half UK's large firms face imminent daily £500 fines over carbon registration

Less than 45 percent of the UK's largest businesses, together with organisations such as the NHS Trusts, have registered for the Government's **Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme**. With the deadline of September 30 fast approaching, this leaves these businesses facing a collective fine of up to £99 million.

Solar Gard, a solar control window specialist, carried out a recent survey that suggested 55 percent of organisations affected by the scheme did not know they were affected or required by law to register. With exactly this number not currently registered, it appears that these findings are now ringing true.

The CRC Energy Efficiency scheme is the UK's mandatory climate change and energy saving initiative. It is central to the UK's strategy for improving energy efficiency and reducing carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions, as set out in the **Climate Change Act 2008**. Around 4,000 organisations currently qualify for the scheme and must register by September 30 or face financial penalties.

According to the latest data from the **Environment Agency, the body responsible for registration to the scheme**, less than 45 per cent of the 4000 firms required to register have done so, despite the fact that registration for the scheme began last April.



Solar Gard estimates that if the remaining 55 percent of organisations required to register miss the September 30 deadline, they each face a £5,000 first-day fine, a collective first-day penalty of £11,000,000. Daily fines of £500 per company will continue for the next 80 days, potentially adding a further £88,000,000 in collective penalties. The total cost to these UK organisations could exceed £99,000,000 if they fail to register soon.

Commenting on the findings, Ian Penfold, Solar Gard's UK architectural manager, said: "Britain's efforts to legislate how its economy can improve energy efficiency and reduce CO₂ emissions are being closely scrutinised by governments across Europe. Either UK organisations are not taking the scheme seriously enough, or efforts to create awareness of the scheme have fallen short. Whatever the reason, British organisations are facing huge penalties that, as we emerge from

recession, they can ill-afford.”

Solar Gard’s survey, carried out by Vanson Bourne interviewed senior facility managers responsible for power management at 100 of the UK’s largest public and private sector organisations.



REGISTER NOW BEFORE IT'S

TOO LATE!! For information on how to submit and complete your CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme registration, follow guidance at www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/pollution

MEANWHILE.....MOST NHS TRUSTS “ILL PREPARED” TO MEET NEW CARBON REDUCTION LAWS



Research conducted by business management consultancy, **Blackmores** suggests that most **NHS Trusts** are not yet compliant with the new Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) legislation that comes into force next month. Similarly few meet international or even British environmental standards.

All companies (including public sector organisations such as NHS Trusts) that consume over 6,000 megawatt hours of energy a year will be required by law to register their energy use by September 30 2010.

Mel Blackmore, a Director at Blackmores who offer a bespoke system to help NHS Trusts meet their environmental obligations said: “Earlier this year Blackmores found that many NHS Trusts are not identifying or documenting environmental requirements to meet imminent regulatory and legislative requirements.

Many are not only ill prepared for the CRC but they also fail to meet best practice standards on environmental management issues. The cost and environmental benefits of doing so are significant and given the climate of spending cuts and a painful squeeze on NHS funds it is perhaps surprising that they are not taking these issues more seriously.”

However Blackmores did offer some comfort by highlighting that a handful of NHS Trusts have taken their responsibilities in this area seriously.

South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust are not only in full compliance with the forthcoming Carbon Reduction Commitment requirements – and thus will not be subject to any fines for regulatory failures - they have also been certified to the Carbon Trust Standard and are compliant with the environmental management standard (ISO 14001) and the new British Standard for energy management (BS EN 16001). They are reaping financial and environmental rewards as a result.



Graham Richards, Head of Estates at South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust said, “We take our commitments to reducing our carbon footprint and delivering value for money to taxpayers very seriously indeed. We didn’t want to just do the bare minimum but instead have sought to set an example to others as well as to challenge ourselves.”

Posted on Environment Times Online on 7th September 2010.

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Environment Times published by Beckhouse Media Ltd, 22 Warwick St, Adlington, Chorley, Lancs PR7 4JQ | Tel: 01257 481878 | Fax: 01257 474975 | Email: info@environmenttimes.co.uk |
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