



PRESS RELEASE

Amenity Standard providing assurance of quality and professional standards

Since its formal launch at the start of this year, the Amenity Standard has been very much welcomed by all sides of the amenity sector and is already being incorporated into tender documents and specifications going forward. It has also received full support from policy makers and key stakeholders. The Amenity Standard, when held and displayed, demonstrates that all operational activities undertaken are at the highest professional standards and fully comply with all regulations and codes of best practice. The objective would be to move to a position where all work undertaken in amenity management conforms to the Standard as a requirement, providing assurance to all involved that the processes seek to create safe, healthy and sustainable areas fit for purpose using fully trained and qualified operatives.

The Standard is being administered by the Amenity Forum and any Amenity Standard organisation must be a member of an approved assurance scheme. At launch, three assurance schemes were recognised but discussions are on-going with all sub sectors of the important, essential, and diverse amenity sector about recognising further schemes or indeed in development of new ones. Currently there are two new assurance schemes in development to cover golf courses and other sports turf and facilities and more following. The approved assurance scheme is audited fully before being recognised by the Amenity Standard.

If you are an organisation providing amenity management either for clients or indeed in house, make sure you are delivering at the Amenity Standard and, if you wish to discuss how this can best be achieved, contact admin@amenityforum.net

Professor John Moverley, Independent Chairman of the Amenity Forum said " The establishment of the Standard is seen very much as a game changing moment for the sector, seeking to provide the public and all involved with the assurance that amenity management operations wherever undertaken are safe, appropriate and at the highest standards. Integrated approaches are core to this making use of all methods available to achieve optimum results.

The Standard has received the backing of all national governments in the UK and is very much aligned to thinking as the UK government seeks to review the National Action Plan relating to weed, pest and disease management in the coming months"

For further information about the Standard, visit the website, www.theamenitystandard.co.uk. Public facing information on what happens in amenity management and how it is done can be found at www.getbritainmoving.uk

The Forum is holding its annual conference on October 15th in Northamptonshire where the theme will be "Planning for the Future". The event will also be open to online delegates. We are pleased to confirm that an address will be included from a senior government representative. For further information on how to book or for more information, contact Admin@amenityforum.net

Notes to Editors

The Amenity Forum is the non-profit making voluntary initiative and the independent body bringing together professional organisations with an involvement in the amenity horticulture sector. This is a truly diverse industry responsible for the landscape management of urban areas, highways and rail network, sports grounds, parks, industrial and utility sites. To establish and maintain these areas to a high standard, the sector requires access to pesticides, efficient equipment and trained and qualified staff. The organisation was formed in October 2003 as a key action to support the Voluntary Initiative, an industry led project agreed with Government to reduce the environmental impact of pesticides.

The membership comprises of organisations from across this diverse industry, covering manufacturers, suppliers, trade associations, local authorities, major users, landscape, sport, and leisure. Equally important are those members who represent training and qualification standards. The key Government agencies have an important observer role. The objectives of the Amenity Forum are:

To promote and encourage proper and responsible use of pesticides and integrated methods for the management of pests, weeds, and diseases

To lead, coordinate and encourage achievement of “Best Practice” objectives in weed, pest & disease management

To ensure that all practices are sustainable and protect the environment with minimised risks to public health.

To run a communication programme to support these aims and to promote the image of the sector among stakeholders and the public.

To coordinate and encourage the establishment of sustainable qualifications, training and CPD activity, specifically for the Amenity sector

To organise activities within the Amenity Forum membership and linked organisations, such that Amenity Forum objectives are developed in a coordinated way

For further information on this press release or the work of the Forum, please contact the Secretary, Kate Hopkins, or the Chairman, Professor John Moverley OBE. Similarly, if you wish to register for future press releases, please let us know.

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