



ROSPA: Raising Health & Safety Standards

Accidents at work, and work-related ill health not only cause major disruptions to business processes but the effect on quality of life to the individual cannot be understated. That's why good safety performance deserves to be recognised and rewarded.

ROSPA is one of the most prestigious and recognised schemes in the world, with almost 2000 entries every year and a reach of over 7 million employees.

Established in 1956, The RoSPA Health & Safety Awards offer organisations a prime opportunity to benchmark safety performance year on year and ensure consistent performance between sites. They also provide an effective route to demonstrate an ongoing commitment to raising health and safety standards.

Background

LCEU became members of RoSPA in 2016, as part of my professional development to ensure that my health and safety knowledge was updated and maintained and through this I became aware of their awards. I saw these awards being won by a client of ours - a client who repeatedly tried to find fault with our own health and safety standards. I knew we were complying and felt aggrieved that our standards were questioned (there were many politics involved but it set me on a path to prove we were compliant!).

I decided in 2016 to apply for a RoSPA Achievement award, which recognises an organisations overall health and safety performance, policies and procedures - and we achieved Bronze. Not satisfied with this I looked into why we had not done better and it came down to my application process and how I had referenced certain information. Reviewing how I could have responded better thanks to great feedback I re-applied in 2017 and achieved Gold.

What's Involved

To win an award a business must demonstrate directors and senior managers lead health and safety in their organisation, including identifying priorities, setting key performance indicators and targets, monitoring progress and providing clear and effective leadership at all levels.

It is also imperative to prove that risk assessments are formally adhered to and being able to demonstrate that any training being undertaken is aiding improved communication around the subject of occupational health is also key. Showing that you can engage your workforce and their representatives in occupational health and safety is also crucial.

Impressing the Assessors

Proving diligence in all areas of health and safety the business was in a strong position thanks to our thorough dynamic and global risk assessments, management communication processes and employee engagement activity, which sit alongside practices to ensure the competency of employees to carry out their health and safety duties.

This allows for a visible commitment to safety by the leadership team, by discussing health and safety matters at management level and speaking with Operational Personnel. This allows for staff buy in, who want to commit and implement health and safety in everything that is done and achieved throughout the company.



Why This is Great for Business

These awards not only provide a recognition on paper that the business works to maintain certain standards, but it increases confidence in both employees and contractors. One thing I've also loved about these awards is the ability to then support with the education of health and safety in a wider sense, as we have got involved in campaigns within the wider community too.

RoSPA run a campaign each year on Family Safety and Home Safety and as a family business we valued this campaign. We wanted to help them reach out to reduce the number of accidents at home and to Under 5's so we sponsored them to come to North Wales for the day to give talks on Keeping our Under 5's Safe. Providing entertainment for the kids and a space where the adults could gain valuable information, we felt good to have made an impact in this way and it helped illustrate to our customers that our values around protecting people really are inherent.