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DID YOU KNOW?

The Engineering Employers Federation (EEF) developed a free online quiz to help companies identify employees with leadership potential. By recognising these employees and nurturing their skills, the EEF believes that manufacturers can increase productivity. If you are interested in reviewing the quiz or sharing it with your employees, visit www.eef.org.uk/training/why-train-with-eef/leadership-and-management-quiz.

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The majority of UK manufacturing firms predict that a 'Brexit' would be detrimental to the sector and provide an explanation as to why.

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Learn what steps your manufacturing firm will need to take in order to transition to the amended ISO 14001 standard.

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A new initiative launched by Autodesk and The Manufacturer aims to propel British manufacturers into the future.

EEF Survey: Manufacturers Support Remaining in EU

According to a report published in April by the Engineering Employers Federation (EEF), 61 per cent of its member companies want the United Kingdom to remain in the EU, and only 5 per cent want to leave. Despite this industry-specific bias, the outcome of the 23rd June referendum remains unclear, as the general population is more evenly divided than manufacturers. But that has not stopped manufacturers and industry experts from weighing in on whether a potential Brexit would benefit or harm the sector.

One of the main reasons manufacturers oppose the Brexit is because they will lose easy access to the EU market—and that is a serious fear, as almost half of the United Kingdom's exports are to the EU. Some firms are predicting that the Brexit would cause the United Kingdom to lose a significant portion of its negotiating power. This may then cause a reduction in the amount of goods being exported, which would lead to a reduction in productivity and innovation as well as market size and competition. Effectively, the firms that want to stay argue that the Brexit would destabilise the United Kingdom and severely weaken its manufacturing.

However, other firms argue that the Brexit could be beneficial for the industry. These firms predict that, independent of the EU and its regulations, UK manufacturing firms would be able to conduct their daily operations with less restrictive 'red tape'. In this more flexible working environment, firms may then experience an increase in productivity and profit. And, although the percentage of firms that want to leave the EU is small (5 per cent), a majority of firms (72 per cent) recognise that the biggest disadvantage to remaining in the EU is burdensome extra regulations.

The outcome of the vote and its effects are unlikely to become any more certain as the referendum date nears. To help understand both the potential drawbacks and benefits of the Brexit, read the EEF's full report by visiting www.eef.org.uk/resources-and-knowledge/research-and-intelligence/industry-reports/manufacturing-our-future-in-europe-latest-report.



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Why You Should Transition to ISO 14001:2015

The revised version of the ISO 14001 standard came into force in September 2015 and focuses on limiting risk across supply chains, minimising energy use and encouraging involvement from senior management. This environmental management systems standard is perfect for manufacturers since it helps reduce environmental threats—one of the biggest risks that manufacturers face. And, demonstrating your environmental compliance may make your organisation more appealing to clients and business partners.

The deadline for transitioning to the new standard is not until September 2018, but the process of compiling the documentation to receive the certification generally takes about one year—meaning that your firm, realistically, has until about September 2017 to begin the process. Yet, it may be beneficial to make the transition sooner as the standard can help cut operation costs, reduce waste, provide instructions on how to establish a green supply chain and mitigate potential environmental risks.

To help your firm make the transition or to adopt the standard for the first time, follow these six steps:

1. Review your firm's environmental management system.
2. Attend a British Standards Institute (BSI) transition course to understand the standard's amendments.
3. Identify what changes will need to be made at your firm in order to comply with the standard, and then implement them.
4. Make changes to your firm's documentation to reflect any changes that you have made to any processes.
5. Implement new requirements for leadership roles, risk management guidance and any other related organisation operations to comply with the standard.
6. Review the effectiveness of the revised operations, processes or roles, and conduct an impact assessment.

For more information about the new standard and how to successfully make the transition, read the BSI transition guide, which can be found at www.bsigroup.com/LocalFiles/en-MY/iso14001/revision/ISO-14001-transition-guide.pdf.

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Take Advantage of the New Future of British Manufacturing Initiative

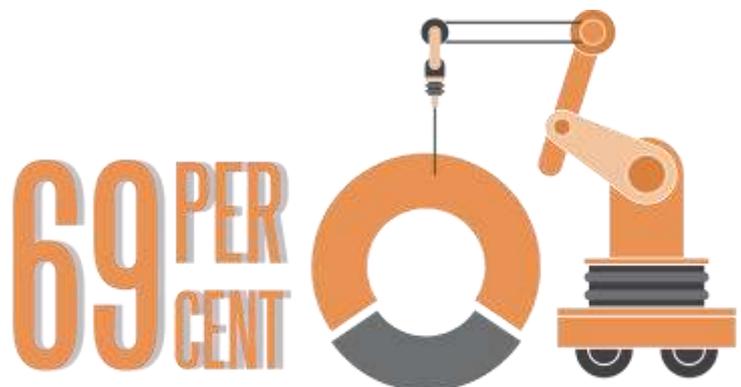
We are in the midst of the fourth industrial revolution called Industry 4.0; however, according to a recent survey conducted by The Manufacturer, 72 per cent of the manufacturing firms polled were 'somewhat aware' or 'not at all aware' of Industry 4.0 and its benefits.

To help ensure that British manufacturers remain competitive, Autodesk and The Manufacturer, with government support, launched the Future of British Manufacturing Initiative (FOBMI). The initiative provides guidance to address the challenges presented by things like the 'Internet of Things' and Industry 4.0. If your firm is interested in participating, follow these four simple steps:

1. **Take the readiness assessment.** The 20-minute assessment will measure how prepared your firm is for the Future of Making Things (FoMT). Upon completing the assessment, you will receive guidance on how your firm can become better prepared.
2. **Attend a FoMT event.** Learn how your firm can successfully integrate emerging industry trends by attending an FoMT event. The remaining dates and locations are as follows:
 - 25th May – The MTC in Coventry
 - 15th June – The AMRC in Rotherham
 - 21st September – The AFRC in Renfrew
3. **Sign up for 'Fast Track'.** The one-day master class will be given by industry experts on developing competitive advantages on a regular basis and how to prepare for the FoMT.
4. **Attend the National FoMT event.** At the National FoMT Event, FOBMI leadership will discuss the overall readiness assessment results and, based upon that information, reveal how prepared Britain is for the future of manufacturing.

To complete these four steps and register for FOBMI, visit www.futureofbritishmanufacturing.com.

The Impact of Industry 4.0



Source: The Manufacturer