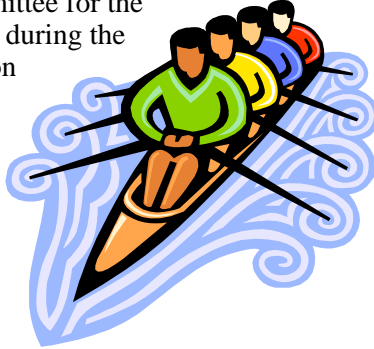


The New Executive Committee

The New Executive Committee for the year 2004-2005 was voted during the Annual General Meeting on 28 May 2004. The following office bearers were elected among the new committee members during their first EC meeting on 9 June 2004:



President : Mr. Y Y Wong
Vice President : Mr. Steve Chan
Hon Secretary : Mr. T C Man
Hon Treasurer : Mr. Victor Chan
EC Members : Mr. Simon So
Mr. James Wong
Mr. H C Tse
Mr. Alex Lam
Mr. Danny Tong

The Safety Auditing Arena

There are over 600 Registered Safety Auditors in Hong Kong and mandatory safety audits have been enforced for over 2 years. The circumstances provide a good habitat for the growth and nurture of the safety auditing profession and the development of more job opportunities. Yet, the situation does not seem to turn out as expected and a number of hurdles are created and a number of deviations are observed.



Safety auditing has not been seen by contractors and factory owners as a means to help them in the establishment and development of their safety management system. It is generally viewed as a legal requirement that they should comply with to avoid prosecution by the Labour Department. It is with this view that the most cost effective or economical way to comply with the law is taken by a lot of auditees.

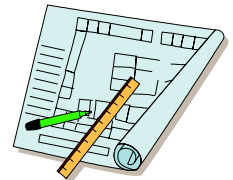
Auditing as a profession has not been properly cultivated and made prominent by the auditors, which can be attributed by the lack of experience of some of the auditors; the lack of professional ethics and most importantly, the failure to provide useful

recommendations to help the auditee in improving their management system.

Auditors go through a relatively short training on the legal requirements and auditing techniques. A format for conducting audits, including the code of ethics, the skills, the report format and the procedures and methodology to be followed are included in the syllabus. The candidate must show their understanding before they can obtain the necessary academic qualification for registration.

Such knowledge and practices are however not adhered to by some practicing auditors, and an extensive variation and diversification of auditing practices are now in the market. The lack of professionalism of some of the audit reports is shocking and appalling. The F&IU (Safety Management) Regulations do not dictate how an audit is to be conducted or how a report is to be presented. The Labour Department has left such decision to the auditors themselves, who, unfortunately, have taken steps to ruin such opportunity for safety auditing to become a profession of its own.

The situation is getting a bit out of control and the integrality of the auditing profession is seriously tarnished by this group of "black sheep". Is this the prime time for auditors to institute some form of self regulatory system to provide a proper and healthy ground for safety auditing to grow?



The SASA webpage

The society has a web page which has not been properly updated for quite some time. The EC intends to revise and update it to enable it to become a useful place for information transfer among members. Please click and check it regularly at www.sasa.org.hk. No password is required for members to access the website.

The SASA membership

It is the intention of the EC to re-activate our existing membership and to invite more RSA to join as members. With the waiving of annual subscription for the years 2003 and 2004, new members only need to pay an entrance fee of HK\$100. Please promote among your colleagues and friends to get them to join the society. Application forms can be downloaded from our website. www.sasa.org.hk