

IMSM & A2B Plastics Case Study

For A2B Plastics, forced to give up its BSI accreditation because of the costs involved, finding out about ISO 9001 from IMSM was great news.

The company, based in Mochdre, Colwyn Bay, is a long-established firm making plastic injection moulding – their products are on everything from high street bins to camera cases.

A2B Plastics had been awarded and complied with BSI for a number of years, but when the recession hit they found the cost of continuing was prohibitive and so gave it up.

"When business began to recover we started to think about taking up our certification again," said Cath Brooksbank, Quality Manager. "Then we heard about ISO 9001 from information sent to us by IMSM. It seemed the perfect step for us; we could be certified once again, but at about half the cost. "I think the annual cost of BSI was about £2,000. With IMSM there is no on-going fee, other than a small fee for the annual audit."

IMSM made an initial visit, then organised for an Auditor to look at A2B Plastic's procedures manual and quality manual. Cath comments, "What I really liked about IMSM was that they worked with the processes we already had in place, rather than having to start all over again. Everything fitted around us, which made the whole process it lot easier.

"They also provided us with training, to ensure we can remain compliant and are ready for our annual audit. In all, everything took about a month."

Any company achieving ISO 9001 must prove it has quality control and management in place. For A2B Plastics, ISO 9001 demonstrates their commitment to quality management.

Cath concludes, "We want to show our customers and suppliers of our commitment to quality. More importantly, some of our customers will only deal with companies which have certification, which ISO 9001 provides."