



ENSURE EDUCATED FACILITY AUDITS

Facility audits, which are often conducted annually, require a lot of time and resources. However, failing an audit can cost even more money and leave you falling behind. These audits should be part of any strategic facility planning process. They assist in making critical decisions for budgets and in developing effective courses of action to correct deficiencies.

According to SAI Global, which offers the Diploma of Quality Auditing qualification, well-designed audits should:

- assist with business continuity planning
- determine areas for sustainable building improvements
- comply with the new Work Health & Safety Act and regulations, and other regulatory requirements
- project manage and prioritise maintenance requirements and assess the longevity of assets
- determine if the facility still services the functional needs of the business
- determine the best course of action to correct deficiencies by conducting an incident investigation analysis and/or root cause analysis
- identify hazards, risk assessment and risk control processes, and
- provide an understanding of the best ways to allocate the budget.

To facilitate the auditing process, managers and employees should undertake training in this area and gain qualifications, such as the Diploma of Quality Auditing qualification that is offered by SAI Global, which is nationally recognised.

In addition to audit and compliance competencies, SAI Global's Diploma of Quality Auditing also covers the management of risks and provides a variety of electives to suit workplace development requirements.

SAI Global
saiglobal.com/qualityaudit



DANGEROUS GOODS STORAGE AND HANDLING COURSE

Chemical System Consulting (CSC) is running one-day training sessions for employees who are exposed to, work with or are responsible for the storage and handling of dangerous goods and hazardous chemicals.

The course provides participants with basic knowledge necessary for safe storage and handling of dangerous goods and other chemicals in their workplace. It focuses on learning practical safe work practices using the participants' workplaces, knowledge and relevant case studies.

The course assists employers to fulfil their obligations under the relevant national, state and territory occupational health and safety, and environmental legislations and statutory requirements. At the completion of the course, participants will have an understanding of:

- the dangerous goods classification system
- safe work practices relating to the storage and handling of dangerous goods
- how to interpret information on labels, signs and placards
- how to locate a material safety data sheet, how to use this information and where to obtain any other relevant information
- the nature of hazards and risks associated with the duties being performed
- measures used to control risks and how to apply these
- proper use, cleaning and replacement of personal protective equipment
- emergency procedures, and
- first aid and incident reporting procedures in the case of illness, injury or serious incident.

The five- to six-hour course can be held at a client's premises or at a CSC training facility, with a maximum of 12 participants. On satisfactory attendance and completion of a quiz, participants will receive a certificate of completion. In addition, the employer is sent a feedback report.

Chemical System Consulting
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PREPARING STUDENTS FOR CHANGE

With a property sector that is facing massive changes on the financial and physical fronts, Dr Heather MacDonald, the new head of the School of the Built Environment at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS), is aiming to prepare students for scenarios that are 10 to 15 years into the future.

"The property disciplines will go through substantial change over the next 10 years, and our graduates will need to manage those changes," MacDonald notes. "They may well be doing jobs that don't yet exist, and they won't be successful with a narrow training."

Thus, she plans to instil in UTS Built Environment graduates well-developed critical skills, research ability, skills in the intelligent application of technology and the ability to work constructively in teams. She believes that with an understanding of these core skills, future built environment knowledge workers will have the ability to keep on top of the game.

"They will also have the ability to see the big picture, to consider a precinct rather than just a site, and this will add real value to an industry on the cusp of major change," MacDonald adds.

The use of geographic information systems (GIS) and building information modelling (BIM) technologies is already a part of the curriculum at UTS and, as such, MacDonald's vision of the new built environment knowledge worker may come sooner than expected. UTS's School of the Built Environment has a trans-disciplinary approach that mixes property economics, construction management, planning, property development and project management disciplines.

University of Technology Sydney
School of the Built Environment
www.dab.uts.edu.au/built-environment