

A-Gas Electronic Materials took on a contract in April 2015 to warehouse semiconductor materials previously stored at Dow's Coventry facility. As part of this contract Dow expressed the need for A-Gas EM to work towards attaining a new standard called SQAS.

SQAS (Safety & Quality Assessment for Sustainability) is a system of uniform third party assessments to evaluate the performance of Logistics Service Providers and Chemical Distributors. SQAS assessments cover quality, safety, security, environment and CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility). SQAS is not a certification system; it is an assessment system that provides a detailed factual assessment report. The SQAS assessment reports allow chemical companies to evaluate their logistics service providers according to their own standards and requirements.

SQAS is a key element of Responsible Care in logistics operations.

Cefic, the European Chemical Industry Council, manages the SQAS system and ensures its integrity.

In working towards this standard, it was also decided to go for the ISO 9001 and 14001 (2015) revisions + carry out a surveillance visit for OHSAS 18001 (2008).

During the week commencing the 21st August all of these assessments were undertaken and we have great pleasure in announcing that we successfully achieved the SQAS accreditation with a score of 83% and we are now accredited to ISO 9001 and 14001 (2015). We do have areas that we can improve on for the SQAS but the auditor did state that this was an exemplary score for a first-time audit. For our ISO's there were no non-conformances found and only 1 opportunity for improvement.

It is currently our plan to complete the update by being assessed to OHSAS 18001 (2015) next year when the 2008 accreditation runs out.

Thanks, must primarily go to Wayne Hartshorn and Beverley Brooman for their hard work in preparing for these assessments with assistance from our external consultant Chris Lewton.

Finally, we must also thank all the staff who assisted the auditors during the process whilst diligently carrying on with their day job.

