

## **ISO 22222 - Government funded certification scheme through Standards International**

The leading ISO 22222 certification body, Standards International are delighted to confirm that financial planners wishing to work towards the ISO 22222 award through their certification scheme programme from now until **June 2009 may be eligible for government funding** towards gaining the professional award.

The funding initiatives are available to enhance the skills of small and medium sized businesses within the England and Wales.

There is an eligibility criteria to meet but for any planners that meet this, the government schemes will provide financial support as they work towards achieving the ISO 22222 award.

This is great news as it means that they can achieve certification from as little as **£437.50\*** instead of the usual fee of £1,375 and in the case of those working towards Chartered status the ISO 22222 award will provide an exemption from AF5 (Financial Planning Process).

\* The funding is available on a one off basis to the firm.

For advisers interested in joining the certification scheme, the first step in the process is to complete an Eligibility Application Form which can be obtained **from** Standards International.

Upon receipt, the application shall be reviewed to establish whether the adviser is eligible to join the certification scheme. If successful the adviser shall:

- Receive a copy of BS ISO 22222:2005, the standard for personal financial planners.
- Attend a 1 day 'Training and Gap Analysis' workshop.

The next Training and Gap Analysis events are being held on the following dates:

10<sup>th</sup> June – London  
15<sup>th</sup> July - Hertfordshire

- Submit to a 1 day on-site assessment of the applicant's documentation and the internal processes and procedures. Advisers are also required to demonstrate ethical competency at each of the six stages of the financial planning process.

There is an ongoing assessment fee of £56.25 per month, per adviser which includes an annual quality review audit, annual re certification and discount on further training provisions.

Advisers that have achieved the ISO 22222 have been rewarded with some of the following:

- Improved performance and compliance.
- More effective and user-friendly processes and documentation.
- Standardisation of good working practices.
- Improved communication (internally/externally).
- An increase in company and personal profile.
- Improved sales and marketing opportunities.
- A reduction in professional insurance costs, due to the reduction in risks.

Michelle Hoskin, Business Development Director of Standards International, said:

“It is great to see how proactive planners are being in making the most of the great funding opportunities that are available to them. We have been overwhelmed by interest in the ISO standard and as a result we have had to extend our workshop programme”

This funding is only available for a limited period so for further information about ISO 22222 and to obtain an eligibility application form, please e-mail [enquiries@standardsinternational.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@standardsinternational.co.uk) or call 01462 790894.

**Notes to Editors:**

Standards International is pioneering best practice amongst Personal Financial Planners in the UK and overseas. The organisation has been established by Melanie Blackmore and Michelle Hoskin to provide ISO 22222 certification and training services to financial planners in the UK and overseas.

The founders provide a unique offering as their combined experience in implementing international standards and in assisting and supporting financial advisers to operate more efficiently is unrivalled.

If you have any queries or require any further information please contact: Michelle Hoskin or Melanie Blackmore on t: 01462 790894 or E: [enquiries@standardsinternational.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@standardsinternational.co.uk)