

News Release: Date: Wednesday, 03 November 2004: For Immediate use.



*****NEWS RELEASE*****

SKILLACTIVE WELCOMES NEW STANDARDS FOR MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

Today sees the launch of new National Occupational Standards in Management and Leadership following a two-year consultation and review process.

The new Standards have been developed on behalf of the Skills for Business Network by the Management Standards Centre, and will provide a set of best practice guidelines for Management and Leadership across all industry sectors.

Ivan Lewis MP, Minister for Skills and Vocational Education said; "These new Standards will help employers recruit and train the two million new managers they need by 2012. Employers report currently that one in three managers are not fully proficient to perform effectively in their job, lacking in particular some of the skills needed to develop a culture of high productivity. Our skills strategy is ensuring organisations will get the training they need through the new Sector Skills Councils and that providers will increasingly offer the training employers and individuals want."

SkillsActive, the Sector Skills Council for Active Leisure and Learning has been assigned lead responsibility by the Sector Skills Development Agency for taking the Management and Leadership Standards forward within the Skills for Business Network and with other key stakeholders.

John Thorpe, Head of Technical Standards at SkillsActive said; "SkillsActive welcomes the launch of the new world class, national resource which will develop high quality leadership and management skills, particularly in SMEs and at middle management level.

"SkillsActive is looking forward to working with the Skills for Business Network in the rollout of the new Standards into many occupational sectors and in so doing, providing immediate value to working managers and training organisations across the UK.

For more information please contact:

Shelly Beresford
Tel: 020 7632 2033
Email: shelly.beresford@skillsactive.com

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. SkillsActive is the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for Sport and Recreation, Health and Fitness, Playwork, The Outdoors and the Caravan industries.
2. SkillsActive is responsible for developing National Occupational Standards for the Fitness Industry. The National Occupational Standards are vital for the development

of the industry and the recognition of the achievements of those who work in it. The Standards define the knowledge and skills needed to work in the industry and define best practice.

3. SkillsActive's mission statement is: "To ensure best quality, best business and best value within the Sector to achieve its economic and social potential."
4. SSCs are employer-led organisations that aim to tackle the skills and productivity needs of their sector throughout the UK. SSCs provide employers with the opportunity to provide leadership to meet their sector's skills and business needs. In return they receive substantial public investment and greater dialogue with government departments across the UK.
5. For more information about SkillsActive, please visit our website @ www.skillsactive.com