

# Case Study



SmartWater uses BS7799 (now ISO27001) to demonstrate industry best practice in information security

SmartWater Technology manufactures a generic property marking system suitable for use across a wide range of property, from cars to antiques, that is easy to apply but extremely difficult for criminals to remove. Modelled upon, but more robust than DNA profiling, the company's royal award-winning

products are now used to protect the property of hundreds of thousands of customers worldwide as well as being increasingly used for new applications involving security, manufacturing, quality control and anti-counterfeiting.

## The Challenge

"One of the key stimuli behind the BS7799 (now ISO27001) project was our need to achieve official Police Accredited Organisation Status from APCO – the Association of Chief Police Officers" explains Dominique Cleary, Operations Manager at SmartWater Technology. "To do this, we had to comply with a number of criteria – one being that we had to operate to LPS1224, the Secure Register (Database) standard designed by the Loss Prevention Council."

"However, after studying the standard, we felt it fell way short of the requirements of BS7799, being both too rigid and a restriction to technological advancement" adds Cleary. "Fortunately, we were able to persuade ACPO to recognise BS7799 as an alternative to LPS1224."

"Before starting the project, we reviewed the likely resourcing requirements for the work. I was heavily involved in conducting ISO 9000 audits and simply didn't have enough time to do everything that would have been required for BS7799 as well"

recalls Cleary. "We quickly concluded that we needed outside help."

"I short listed three different organisations as potential partners but soon selected Siemens Enterprise Communications as the one best suited to support us" says Cleary. "They responded to our requests quickly, their approach to BS7799 impressed us and, I think above all else, they came across as a very professional organisation."

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