



Genova, 01/02/2009

Circular n° 8/2009

**SAAS
Organisations certified and undergoing certification by
RINA in compliance with SA 8000:2001**

PUBLICATION OF THE SA 8000:2008 STANDARD

We wish to inform you that a new edition of the SA 8000 Standard, known as SA 8000:2008, has been published.

This new edition of the Standard does not include significant changes but clarifies existing requirements in order to improve uniformity of interpretation and implementation.

For more detailed information concerning the amendments, reference is to be made to the text of the SA8000:2008 Standard available on the RINA site (www.rina.org) and SAI site (www.sa-intl.org). Moreover, the new RINA Rules, revised edition 1st February 2009, are available on the RINA site (www.rina.org).

RINA intends to ensure that companies with a Social Accountability Management System already certified or undergoing certification, are promptly aligned with the new revision of the Standard, at no additional cost to the client organisations.

Organisations will be required to analyse their Social Accountability Management System in relation to the changes made in SA 8000:2008 and take any pertinent steps necessary. RINA will check the above analysis has been made and that the Social Accountability Management System has been brought into line.

Organisations which have a valid SA8000:2001 certificate can make the transition to SA 8000:2008 at the time of the first audit in the periodical surveillance programme. Organisations will be contacted, as usual, by the pertinent RINA office, prior to the planned surveillance audit and informed, in writing, that the transition audit will be carried out. RINA will not perform any supplementary audit and organisations will not have to make any request for transition.

Following the successful outcome of the transition audit, the organisation will be informed that its certificate has been updated to SA 8000:2008. The certificate will be available and may be downloaded from the RINA member area.

The SA 8000:2001 Standard will remain in force until 31st December 2009. From 1st January 2010, only the certificates issued in compliance with the SA 8000:2008 Standard will be valid.

From 1st March 2009, all initial certification audits will be made on the basis of the new edition of the Standard and all certificates will be issued in compliance with SA 8000:2008.

The pertinent RINA offices are at your disposal for any further clarification you may need.

We take this opportunity to send you our kind regards.
RINA S.p.A.