

## Balkancar ZARYA® Plc receives ISO 9001:2000 certification from LLOYD'S REGISTER QUALITY ASSURANCE (LRQA)

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Balkancar ZARYA, the single Bulgarian steel wheel manufacturer, was awarded ISO 9001:2000 certification from LLOYD'S REGISTER QUALITY ASSURANCE, one of the most demanding and prestigious registrars in the world. This certification recognizes that Balkancar ZARYA has quality systems in place which meet strict international standards.

Balkancar ZARYA's management philosophy has dramatically evolved after the company has been fully privatized. In line with the "Moving forward" business plan adopted by the Board of Directors statement was issued that focusing on quality is the best investment a company can make.

After a rigorous audit, Balkancar ZARYA's quality processes successfully passed the 1994-revised ISO 9001 standard that covers quality components in the areas of management, engineering, manufacturing, marketing and customer service. Balkancar ZARYA is amongst the few companies to be awarded its certification at the conclusion of its initial ISO 9001 audit.

Management regards this award as a statement of its commitment to quality. Awarding this certification to Balkancar ZARYA Plc proves to both customers and business partners that Balkancar ZARYA's products are designed and manufactured following corporate quality systems which meet the highest international standards.

Originally published in 1987 by the International Organization for Standardization in Geneva, Switzerland to further a truly integrated common market, ISO 9001 is a generic system that specifies the necessary components of a quality system.

One of the major strengths of ISO 9001:2000 is its wider appeal for all types of organisation. Its focus on processes and customer satisfaction rather than procedures means it is equally applicable to service providers as manufacturers with greater emphasis on customer satisfaction, process management and measurement, continual improvement with greater top management involvement.

Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance (LRQA), established in 1985, is the world's most respected management systems and certification company. LRQA is a member of the Lloyd's Register Group. Lloyd's Register's reputation for impartiality is renowned worldwide and LRQA has inherited the same reputation in the assessment of management systems. Lloyd's Register rules have helped set the standards for today's quality systems and have pioneered and developed the principles of modern quality assurance.

Balkancar ZARYA Plc. (BSE-SOFIA: ZARYA) is the single Bulgarian company specialized in steel wheels and rims manufacturing. The Company is recognized as a leading international manufacturer and supplier of a wide range of industrial wheels to the original manufacturers of fork-lift trucks and tyre producers as well as supplier of original wheel parts for the aftermarket. Balkancar ZARYA news and information are available at www.balkancarzarya.com

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