

# How does NETconsent offer more than paper?

Feature	Paper	NETconsent
<b>1) Centralised Repository</b>	<p>If policies are sent out individually there is no central repository for employees to refer to.</p> <p>If a manual or handbook is used, a central repository exists at the time of publication, however it may become quickly out of date and fragmented. As legislation, culture and risks change, updates may get circulated via a different means and the validity of the central repository becomes diluted.</p>	Users can access all the policies they have ever been presented with at any time - (current and old versions).
<b>2) Accuracy</b>	It is impossible to ensure that circulated addendums are added to existing documents (unless a few copies exist). Therefore employees may be accessing old incorrect information and putting themselves and the organisation at risk.	Employees are always presented with the latest policies which are relevant to their role each time a policy is revised. This ensures that users are immediately aware of changes, which helps to minimise risk.
<b>3) Risk Management</b>	Often employees are notified by way of their contract of employment to abide by corporate policies, however often they do not become aware of these policies until some time into their employment.	NETconsent pro-actively presents policies and can prevent use of specified IT services until a user has agreed to a policy. This ensures employees are aware of their rights and responsibilities before using corporate resources.
<b>4) Visibility</b>	Users are required to choose to review a paper policy. Whether located centrally or sent to them directly, paper is something they can indefinitely set aside for more pressing tasks.	NETconsent is proactive in its presentation of policies to users.
<b>5) Ease of Maintenance</b>	It is not very practical to send out tailored policies, so in most cases all employees receive all the policies even if they are not relevant and often assume that some restrictions do not apply to them based on their role in the organisation.	NETconsent policies can be customised so that users get the policies that are relevant to them. There is no room for ambiguity about which clauses do and don't apply to them.
<b>6) Responsiveness</b>	Paper updates take time to print and post. Where new policies come into force from a particular date the policy has to go out before that date, so two policies may appear to contradict themselves.	NETconsent provides a reliable mechanism to quickly update policies and distribute them without additional costs. Time sensitive policies are guaranteed to present at the right time.
<b>7) Cost</b>	Each policy update incurs production costs and possibly postage dependant on employee locations.	NETconsent pays for itself during the roll out of the first policy to 500 people. Subsequent updates incur no additional costs.

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8) Notification	Notifications of new or revised policies can be sent by letter, email or staff notice board, etc. However there is no guarantee that employees will review new or revised policies.	New or revised policies which are relevant to the employee are automatically displayed at the point of use, so receipt is guaranteed.
9) Consent	Ensuring that users sign to say that they have agreed to be bound by corporate policies is a labour intensive exercise. It is impractical for large organisations, particularly if they have remote locations with no HR function to rely on line managers, telephone and email chasing to get the signed policies back.	Using NETconsent a user has to accept the policy before using the services that are affected by the policy. This eliminates the need to chase users for their responses.  At any time HR can easily see who has accepted or declined a policy or not yet seen it.
10) Reporting	Collating the responses and filing them is a time -consuming exercise.  Management reports have to be created manually.	NETconsent maintains a full audit history of policy publication, circulation and revisions. Every user acceptance is recorded against the various policies and versions they accepted or declined/ queried. Management reports are generated with ease.
11) Archiving & Retrieval	Loss of paper records can invalidate a disciplinary procedure. Storage can be costly and onerous.	Disc space cost is negligible. An I.T. system is backed up for disaster recovery.
12) Compliance	Demonstrate good corporate governance.  Logistics of establishing where the process is at any given point is not practical as it result in a huge overhead.	Policies and procedures are in place and effectively communicated throughout the organisation.  Rapidly allows you to run compliance reports about who has been presented with policies and who has accepted/ queried/declined them.
13) Legal Protection	Unless a very stringent process with unlimited resources is in place, organisations find they rarely get all paper policies returned. This runs the risk that if taken to an Industrial Tribunal, the case may be thrown out, as the employer is apparently not treating everyone the same.	NETconsent applies the same processes to everyone, so that the organisation can not be accused of giving preferential treatment to some user. There is the flexibility to distribute tailored policies to specified groups of personnel where policies are legitimately applied differently.
14) Review Frequency	Because a paper policy process is so resource hungry, policy reviews tend to be undertaken far less frequently than necessary. This leaves an organisation open to conflict of actual practice verses a policy directive, which significantly increases the risk to an organisation.	It is so easy with NETconsent to publish and distribute new versions of documents, automatically achieving sign-up, that it promotes regular review and update of policies. Policies therefore afford greater protection and value to the organisation as they reflect the current position in terms of legislation, business practices and company policy.



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