# CUSTOMER SERVICE Pocketbook

# **3rd Edition**

A pocketful of tools, tips and techniques for everyone who contributes, directly or indirectly, to ensuring that the customer comes first

> Sean McManus & Tony Newby



# **Copyright Notice – Please Read**

The contents of this electronic book (text and graphics) are protected by international copyright law. All rights reserved.

The copying, reproduction, duplication, storage in a retrieval system, distribution (including by email, fax or other electronic means), publication, modification or transmission of the book are STRICTLY PROHIBITED unless otherwise agreed in writing between the purchaser/licensee and Management Pocketbooks.

Parts of this electronic book may be printed out by the purchaser/licensee, for their personal use only. Multiple printing/photocopying is STRICTLY PROHIBITED unless otherwise agreed in writing between the purchaser and Management Pocketbooks.

If you are in any doubt about the permitted use of this electronic book, or believe that it has come into your possession by means that contravene this copyright notice, please contact us.



MANAGEMENT POCKETBOOKS LTD

LAUREL HOUSE, STATION APPROACH, ALRESFORD, HAMPSHIRE SO24 9JH UK Telephone: +44 (0)1962 735573 Fax: +44 (0)1962 733637 Email: sales@pocketbook.co.uk Web: www.pocketbook.co.uk

# **Enjoy the read!**

To help you move around this e-Pocketbook we have included a full '**Table of Contents**', with links that take you instantly to the chapter or page of your choice. Be sure to reveal the Table of Contents within the navigation pane (sidebar) of your file viewer.

In addition, we have **embedded links** within the book itself, denoted by coloured arrows and text that is <u>underlined</u> (or highlighted). These embedded links will get you swiftly from the Contents page to a specific chapter and from **cross-references** to other parts of the book. A link at the foot of the page vill get you back to where you started.

Other features that will help improve your reading experience include word search, zoom, page view options and printing (see *Copyright Notice* on the previous page).

It is well worth spending some time familiarising yourself with your document viewer in order to get the best from this e-Pocketbook.

Enjoy your reading!

# THE CUSTOMER SERVICE POCKETBOOK

# **3rd Edition**

By Sean McManus & Tony Newby

Drawings by Phil Hailstone

#### Published by: Management Pocketbooks Ltd

Laurel House, Station Approach, Alresford, Hants SO24 9JH, U.K. Tel: +44 (0)1962 735573 Fax: +44 (0)1962 733637 Email: sales@pocketbook.co.uk Website: www.pocketbook.co.uk



All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publishers.

Previous edition ISBN 978 1 903776 00 1 © Tony Newby (1st edition) 1991 © Sean McManus and Tony Newby 2002, 2013

This edition published 2013 ISBN 978 1 906610 55 5

E-book ISBN 978 1 908284 24 2

British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data – A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Design, typesetting and graphics by efex Itd.

Printed in U.K.

# CONTENTS

5

13

39



#### WHAT IS CUSTOMER SERVICE? Defining customer service, putting customers first and an introduction to various delivery channels



#### WHY CUSTOMER SERVICE MATTERS

Looks at the benefits to you and the organisation of delivering good customer service, exceeding expectations and creating lifetime value



#### DELIVERING GREAT CUSTOMER 27 SERVICE

Describes the qualities required to inspire and delight customers



#### EFFECTIVE CUSTOMER COMMUNICATIONS Help with developing personal

communication skills, understanding the importance of the different communication channels available and how to get your message across clearly, while avoiding confusion or frustration



#### TURNING COMPLAINTS INTO **OPPORTUNITIES**

Explains the benefits of complaints and of getting customer feedback, how to handle complaints and alleviate stress caused by dealing with angry customers

#### EMPOWERING GREAT CUSTOMER SERVICE

Shows how everyone in the organisation plays an important part in providing good customer service and what can be done if there is a weakness in the delivery chain



#### MEASURING CUSTOMER SERVICE 93

Ideas on how to set standards, internal indicators, measuring satisfaction, the advantages of mystery shopper programmes and staff rewards



#### PERSONAL ACTION PLANNING 105

Using what you have learned, review and overcoming obstacles

83



Copyright protected - Management Pocketbooks Ltd



## WHAT IS CUSTOMER SERVICE?

# **DEFINING CUSTOMER SERVICE**

Customer service is simply another term for helping customers.

It might include:

- Helping customers to find products or services
- Advising customers on which products are most suitable for them
- Finding the answers to customer questions about your products or organisation
- Giving customers advice on how to use a product
- Helping customers to complete a purchase
- Responding to after sales queries
- Receiving and resolving complaints



Copyright protected - Management Pocketbooks Ltd

### WHAT IS CUSTOMER SERVICE?

# PUTTING CUSTOMERS FIRST



Customer service is sometimes called customer care, because it's about looking after customers, and putting their needs first.

Good customer service is about:

- Treating customers with respect and thinking of them as people the organisation might be able to help with its products and services, rather than just 'people to be sold stuff'
- Learning what each customer needs, and helping to find products or services to satisfy those needs
- Being supportive and offering help after the sale, and not rejecting requests for help once the money is in the till
- Making customers happy with what they buy, and how they're sold it



## WHAT IS CUSTOMER SERVICE?

# **CUSTOMER CONTACT**

Customer service matters because everybody in every organisation:

- Either helps customers directly
- Or helps colleagues (internal customers) who serve the customer

This book is for people who work in:

- Businesses supplying goods or services
- Governmental and public sector organisations
- Voluntary organisations

... because they all have customers.



Copyright protected - Management Pocketbooks Ltd