

Eco-Management und Audit Scheme

Environmental Management



Motivation and benefits

EMAS helps organizations to improve their internal environmental protection autonomously and continually. EMAS stands for “Eco-Management and Audit Scheme”, which is also known under the keyword “Eco-Audit”. EMAS yields the following comprehensive benefits:

- increasing credibility and transparency towards the public in issues relating to environmental protection
- increasing legal certainty
- securing the organization's future on a long-term basis
- competitive edge enabled by the improvement of the organization's image among customers, employees, sub-suppliers and public authorities
- enhancing the employees' identification with the organization
- increasing productivity and cost savings
- reducing operating cost by saving energy and raw materials and avoiding waste
- consolidation of administrative decisions and permits based on the Environmental Management Act
- simplification of administration

Objectives

EMAS focuses on the organizations' autonomy:

- maintenance and documentation of legal compliance
- documentation of environmental performance in the environmental statement
- identifying and eliminating ecological and economic weaknesses
- reducing costs by saving material or energy

Target group

EMAS shall be open to the participation of any organization dedicated to improving its overall environmental performance and internal environmental protection. Companies, craft businesses or business establishments, public institutions and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) can also use EMAS as a management system.

Criteria

According to the EMAS Regulation, the environmental management system does not only have to meet the requirements of Clause 4 of ISO 14001 (Environmental Management System Requirements) but also has to fulfil the following minimum criteria:

Legal compliance

The environmental verifier will declare the environmental statement to be invalid if s/he states during verification, e.g. in the course of sampling, that the organization fails to comply with legal regulations.

Improvement of environmental performance

Organizations shall commit themselves to the continual improvement of their environmental performance.

External communication and relations

The environmental statement is one important communication tool. Furthermore, there should be an open dialogue with the public and other interested parties. This shall be demonstrated to the environmental verifier in the course of an environmental audit.

Employee involvement

The organization shall demonstrate that the employees are actively involved in the process designed for sustainable improvement.



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Requirements placed by EMAS

- establishing an environmental management system in order to define, deploy, implement, review and continue environmental policy
- carrying out an internal environmental review
- carrying out an internal environmental audit
- drawing up an environmental statement
- sending the environmental statement to the registration body (competent body)

Accreditation

Quality Austria is accredited as competent body by the Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism (BMNT – “Bundesministerium für Nachhaltigkeit und Tourismus”).

Other relevant Standards

ISO 9001, ISO 14001, SCC, ISO 45001, Sustainability Reports, eccos^{22®}, ONR 192500

Quality Austria introduces itself

Quality Austria - Trainings, Zertifizierungs und Begutachtungs GmbH is your competence partner for the Integrated Management System in the fields of Quality, Environment, Safety and Industry Standards as well as Business Excellence. The services provided by Quality Austria range from trainings in the field of international management trends and techniques via certification of management systems according to international standards, regulations, national guidelines, directives and assessments according to the EFQM Excellence Model to awarding the Austria Quality Seal. The Austrian Excellence Award will be presented to Austrian organizations in cooperation with the Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs. Quality Austria is accredited by the Federal Ministry of Digital and Economic Affairs and has numerous international registrations and accreditations.

Having more than 1.200 auditors, trainers, assessors and technical experts, Quality Austria secures successful implementation of standards and regulations within the organizations and provides sector and product specific know-how with a very high focus on practical work. Based on the competence network in the field of comprehensive sector specific, technical and methodological knowledge as well as comprehensive experience, trends will be influenced while innovations will be interpreted and tomorrow's requirements will be co-designed actively and consistently in corresponding bodies even on an international scale.

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