

Environmental Management Systems

Many companies are familiar with Environmental Management Systems (EMS) such as the ISO 14000 series of international standards. Defined succinctly, an EMS is a continuous cycle of planning, implementing, checking and improving that a company can use to manage its environmental responsibilities.

An EMS is recognized as an effective means to achieve compliance and reduce negative impacts on the environment. An EMS is not limited to ISO 14001, although that model is well recognized and encompasses over 20,000 organizations worldwide. An EMS builds upon procedures that an organization may already have and serves as a vehicle that pulls together all of your environmental compliance efforts.

A successful EMS must begin with management commitment. Without this commitment, any system will eventually fail. Typically, systems are based on documented procedures that are implemented and maintained in such a way that successful achievement of environmental goals (commensurate with the nature and scale of activities) is promoted. In addition, the EMS must include appropriate monitoring and review to ensure effectiveness in order to identify and implement corrective measures in a timely manner.

An environmental policy will clearly illustrate the commitment management has to the EMS. Procedures must be established for on-going review of new processes, equipment, products or chemicals that can affect how an organization impacts the environment, and programs must then be implemented. Internal audits of the EMS must be conducted routinely to ensure that nonconformances to the system are identified and addressed.

Consistent with ISO 9000 and Total Quality Management principles, the checking and corrective action elements of the system help ensure continuous improvement by addressing root causes of nonconformances there by creating the cycle of continuous improvement for a successful environmental program.

BENEFITS

The following benefits underscore the reasons for developing and implementing an EMS:

- Reduces costs and improves business performance
- Provides more streamlined and effective management of environmental issues
- Satisfies customer demands for their suppliers to have an EMS
- Assists companies in remaining competitive in the global marketplace
- Improves product marketing benefits by enhancing public image
- Decentralizes environmental management from a central environmental group to the business units or departments which directly impact the environment
- Improves negotiations for settlement of federal and state environmental regulatory enforcement actions

An EMS will help drive continuous improvement in environmental management activities through a "plan-do-check-act" approach. In order for an EMS to be successful it has to be:

- Clearly understood by employees in order for them to play an active role
- Dynamic and flexible to best serve the ever-changing business climate, environmental regulations, and priorities
- Aligned with business goals and deliver results
- Based on measurable actions
- Focused on pollution prevention strategies rather than end-of-pipe treatment
- Shared with the public through a variety of means



SERVICES

- Conduct EMS Gap analysis
- Plan and strategize approach for developing an EMS
- Prepare EMS manuals
- Prepare supporting documentation
- Participate on implementation teams
- Conduct EMS audits (pre-certification/internal surveillance)
- Provide computer-based interactive training
- Provide assistance to facilities managers, environmental managers and quality managers tasked with the goal of developing an EMS

QUALIFICATIONS

Our professionals have hands-on experience with the entire process from program development and implementation through the auditing process and achieving the certification. We can provide you with information on what to expect during the audit process and how to successfully plan and strategize to develop an EMS that will meet certification requirements.

CAPACCIO has assisted numerous firms who have developed an EMS including developing the programs and documentation for companies requiring an EMS as part of a MassDEP consent order and companies wishing to combine an EMS with other systems such as quality and/or health and safety systems.

CAPACCIO EMS professionals are:

- Certified RABQSA ISO 14001 Auditors
- Certified Hazardous Materials Managers (CHMM)



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