

Where can I find further information?

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Additional information is available through the EMAS website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas>

A practical guide for SMEs, with easy to follow steps on how to prepare small and medium organisations for EMAS registration, can be found in the SME Toolkit at:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/tools/sme_index_en.htm

Public authorities can manage environmental activities at a local level with EMAS. The following toolkit shows the easy steps leading to EMAS implementation:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/local/pdf/la_toolkit_commission_020204_en.pdf

Each EU Member State has designated a Competent Body which is responsible for registering organisations and for providing information to interested parties, including information on incentives set aside for EMAS registered organisations. Contact details, including websites for the Competent Body operating in your country, are available on the EMAS website:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/tools/contacts/countrymap_en.htm

The European Eco-Management and Audit Scheme

Improving your environmental and business performance

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/index_en.htm

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What if an organisation is already ISO 14001 certified or using a non-formal EMS?

Both EMAS and ISO 14001 have the common objective of providing good environmental management. Yet too often they are seen as competitors. The European Commission has recognised that ISO 14001 can provide a stepping stone for EMAS. In fact, the EN ISO 14001:2004 environmental management system requirements are an integral part of EMAS III.

The adoption of ISO 14001 as the management system element of EMAS will allow organisations to progress from ISO 14001 to EMAS without the unnecessary duplication of efforts. A successful certification of ISO 14001 means that the most important steps towards EMAS certification have been taken. Additional requirements include:

- **initial environmental review:** EMAS requires that an initial environmental review be performed to identify an organisation's environmental aspects. However, when an organisation already has an EMS certified to ISO 14001 it does not need to conduct a formal environmental review when upgrading to EMAS implementation, so long as the environmental aspects as set out in Annex I are fully considered in the certified EMS;
- **government approval for legal compliance:** an EMAS registered organisation must demonstrate full compliance with environmental legislation;
- **commitment to continuous improvement of environmental performance:** An organisation wishing to register with EMAS must commit itself to the continuous improvement of its environmental performance. The environmental performance is evaluated by an environmental verifier;
- **employee involvement and openness to the public:** an EMAS registered organisation has to demonstrate an open dialogue with employees and interested parties, including stakeholders, local authorities and suppliers;
- **verified environmental statement:** an organisation needs to provide a public statement of its environmental performance. The environmental statement lays down the results achieved against the environmental objectives and the future steps to be undertaken in order to continuously improve the organisation's environmental performance.

Step up to excellent performance – transition from a non-formal EMS to EMAS

In addition to ISO 14001, numerous EMS exist throughout Europe. Though each EMS represents a worthy step towards improved environmental performance, committed organisations often reach the limits of such systems and feel the need for a more demanding and ambitious EMS. The European Commission completed a study on how organisations can upgrade an existing EMS to EMAS in order to register to this premium benchmark for environmental management. The 'Step Up to EMAS' study is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/documents/kit_en.htm



The European Eco-Management and Audit Scheme

Improving your environmental and business performance

- > Continual improvement of environmental performance
- > Compliance with environmental legislation
- > Verified data for environmental reporting

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas>



EMAS



environment

What is EMAS?

The Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) is the EU's voluntary scheme designed for companies and other organisations committing themselves to evaluate, manage and improve their environmental performance.

Confronted with the growing expectations of consumers and markets, organisations benefit from reducing the environmental impact of their activities. Once viewed as an external cost, excellence in environmental performance is fast becoming a business advantage. As environmental issues become more complex and numerous, they need to be managed in new ways. EMAS offers a systematic approach.

EMAS III, the latest revision of the EMAS Regulation, which came into force on 11 January 2010, introduces several new elements which improve the applicability and credibility of the scheme and strengthen its visibility and outreach.

EMAS is the most credible and robust environmental management system (EMS) on the market, adding several elements on top of the requirements of the international standard for environmental management systems EN ISO 14001:2004 (Hereafter: ISO 14001). EMAS superior quality rests upon:

- stricter requirements on the measurement and evaluation of environmental performance against objectives and targets, and the continuous improvement of that environmental performance;
- compliance with environmental legislation ensured by government supervision;
- strong employee involvement;
- environmental core indicators creating multi-annual comparability within and between organisations
- provision of information to the general public through the validated environmental statement; and
- registration by a public authority after verification by an accredited/licensed environmental verifier.

EMAS is designed to help organisations improve their environmental performance while simultaneously enhancing their competitiveness, e.g. through a more efficient use of resources.

An EMAS registration allows organisations to demonstrate to stakeholders such as customers, regulators, and citizens that they evaluate, manage and reduce the environmental impact of their activities. The EMAS logo can be used as a marketing or sales tool to promote the organisation's excellent environmental performance.

Who can participate in EMAS?

EMAS is applicable in all sectors and open to all types of organisations in the public and private sector that seek to improve their environmental performance. With the introduction of EMAS III, the scheme allows Member States to enable EMAS registration for organisations from outside the EU (EMAS Global).

The EMAS easy methodology even enables the introduction of the scheme in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with few financial and human resources or limited in-house expertise. The revised audit cycles improve the scheme's applicability for SMEs. The possibility for a single corporate registration lowers administrative and financial burdens for organisations with several sites. For local authorities, EMAS helps streamlining environmental activities and requirements, e.g. in administration, construction, health and education.

A stepwise implementation of EMAS

In order to be able to benefit from EMAS registration, an organisation should carry out the following steps:

- 1. Conduct an environmental review**
The organisation needs to conduct a verified initial environmental review, considering all environmental aspects of the organisation's activities, products and services, methods to assess them, the organisation's legal and regulatory framework and existing environmental management practices and procedures.
- 2. Adopt an environmental policy**
Registration to EMAS requires an organisation to adopt an environmental policy and to commit itself both to compliance with all relevant environmental legislation and to achieving continuous improvement in its environmental performance.
- 3. Establish an EMS**
Based on the results of the environmental review and the policy (objectives), an EMS needs to be established. The EMS is aimed at achieving the organisation's environmental policy objectives as defined by the top management. The management system needs to set responsibilities, objectives, means, operational procedures, training needs, monitoring and communication systems.
- 4. Carry out an internal environmental audit**
After the EMS is established an environmental audit should be carried out. The audit assesses in particular if the management system is in place and in conformity with the organisation's policy and programme. The audit also checks if the organisation is in compliance with relevant environmental regulatory requirements.
- 5. Prepare an environmental statement**
The organisation needs to provide a public statement of its environmental performance. The environmental statement lays down the results achieved against the environmental objectives and the future steps to be undertaken in order to continuously improve the organisation's environmental performance.
- 6. Independent verification by an EMAS verifier**
An EMAS verifier accredited with an EMAS accreditation body of a Member State must examine and verify the environmental review, the EMS, the audit procedure and the environmental statement.
- 7. Register with the Competent Body of the Member State**
The validated statement is sent to the appropriate EMAS Competent Body for registration and made publicly available.
- 8. Utilize the verified environmental statement**
The environmental statement can be used to report performance data in marketing, assessment of the supply chain and procurement. The organisation can use information from the validated statement to market its activities with the EMAS logo, assess suppliers against EMAS requirements and give preference to suppliers registered under EMAS.



What are the benefits of participating in EMAS?

EMAS brings many benefits to organisations participating in the scheme. These include:

- (I) Enhanced environmental and financial performance**
 - high quality environmental management
 - resource efficiency and lower costs
- (II) Enhanced risk and opportunity management**
 - guarantee of full regulatory compliance with environmental legislation
 - reduced risk of fines related to environmental legislation
 - regulatory relief
 - access to deregulation incentives
- (III) Enhanced credibility, reputation and transparency**
 - independently validated environmental information
 - use of the EMAS Logo as a marketing tool
 - increased business opportunities in markets where green production processes are important
 - better relations with customers, the local and wider community, and regulators
- (IV) Enhanced employee empowerment and motivation**
 - improved workplace environment
 - enhanced employee commitment
 - greater team-building capacity

Together these points lead to three distinguishing features of EMAS:

Performance – Credibility – Transparency



A number of Member States provide financial incentives for EMAS organisations. For example, depending on where they are located, EMAS organisations may benefit from longer inspection intervals, reduction of permit fees, fast lane permits and improved access to funding. For more information please contact the national Competent Body in your Member State.

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas>