

EMS Factsheet

“Ecodynamic enterprise” Label



Overview

Origin and development

The Ecodynamic label was created in 1999 by Brussels Environment - IBGE, the Brussels Administration of the Environment and Energy. The EMS offers private companies and public administrations a systematic approach to lowering their impact on the environment. The “Ecodynamic enterprise” label is an official recognition of good environmental management practices by the Brussels Region. It encourages the introduction of an EMS, with a view towards eventual EMAS or ISO 14001 registrations. There are three levels depending on the initial level of environmental performance within the organisation. Each level is symbolised by stars. Applications are evaluated based on a large range of criteria. These criteria concern specific eco-management actions, quality of the environmental review, and the plan of actions established. The process begins with the signature of the “Entreprise écodynamique” charter. The company benefits from free assistance from designated consultancy firms. Within a period of two years, the company’s candidacy is presented to Brussels Environment IBGE for approval. The application includes an environmental review and a plan of action. Currently, 115 companies and public administrations have been accredited with the EMS label. All types of business are concerned, including non-profit organisations.

Objectives

The EMS aims to encourage companies in Brussels to voluntarily commit themselves to improving their environmental performance through a gradual and step-up approach.

Implementation structure

The implementing institution is Brussels Environment-IBGE. The label is awarded by a jury of 12 institutions composed of Brussels Environment-IBGE and other organisations.

EMS in brief

Key characteristic

The EMS consists of a labelling system that ranks the level of environmental performance obtained by the company from 1 to 3 stars

Implementing institution

Brussels Environment - IBGE

Available since

1999

Geographical scope

Brussels Region, BE

Target group

All companies in the private and the public sectors

Size of targeted companies

All companies

Total number of certifications

115

Number of participants in the process of certification

127

Most important drivers and barriers

Drivers

- Available marketing tools
- Cost/resource savings
- Customer/supplier demand
- Environmental benefits
- Legal security
- Political support/financial incentives
- Proof of corporate social responsibility
- Other: n/a

Barriers

- EMS not widely recognised
- High implementation costs
- Little similarities to EMAS or ISO 14001
- Perceived complication/unattainability
- Other: n/a

Yes

No

The EMS in detail

| | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Commitment of top management: To launch the Ecodynamic label process, the Ecodynamic charter has to be signed by top management. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Environmental review: The company must take into account regulatory compliance, organisational aspects, and the environmental impacts of company activities concerning energy, waste, mobility, air, noise, nature & green spaces. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Environmental policy or guidelines: Companies must sign the Ecodynamic charter, which stipulates a commitment to fulfil environmental criteria and act according to the guidelines. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Proof of legal compliance: Proof of legal compliance must be presented in the environmental review and is taken into account during the accreditation process. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Objectives and environmental management programme: Requirement of an environmental management programme, with a plan of action that specifies priority areas defined on the basis of: The environmental analysis, measures to be taken, improvement targets, the organisational structure, responsibilities, and the procedures and resources necessary for the implementation. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Definition of organisational structure at company level: A responsible person is designated to implement the charter as well as to create a sense of responsibility among the workforce by increasing awareness of environmental issues. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Training and education requirements: Training is not a requirement; however the company is offered training workshops by the EMS. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Communication (internal and external): The EMS requires the development of procedures for communication of the organisation's environmental activities both internally and externally. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Documentation requirements: The EMS requires that completed applications for approval include an environmental review and a plan of action. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Internal follow-up/ checking and corrective action/ continuous improvement: The EMS requires organisations to regularly and periodically evaluate progress on the environmental objectives of their environmental management programme. Continuous improvement is required and the EMS therefore acts as a stimulus for innovation. No internal audit is required. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Management review After three years, the company must review its previous programme. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Environmental report/ statement or similar publication by the participants of the EMS: Not required. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes/Required <input type="checkbox"/> Partially addressed <input type="checkbox"/> Not indicated or not required | |

External audit/certification

Is an external audit required? Yes

Responsibility for the external audit and qualifications needed: The external audit is done free of charge by at least two independent and approved Brussels Environment civil servants.

Audit period: Three-yearly

Certification: The label is valid for three years. Accredited companies receive the right to affix the logo "Ecodynamic enterprise" on external communication sources.

Similarities to EMAS

- Initial environmental review
- Environmental policy
- Legal compliance
- Employee involvement
- Planning
- Implementation
- Checking and corrective action
- Continuous improvement
- Management review
- Certification
- Environmental statement
- Validation of environmental statement

Relation of the EMS to EMAS: Close

For further information on the EMS, please contact:

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