

EMS Factsheet

1.2.3 Environnement



Overview

Origin and development

1.2.3 Environnement is a model for the establishment and certification of an environmental management system that is comprised of 3 levels. The third and last step can lead to an ISO 14001 certification and/or EMAS registration. The Assembly of French Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ACFCI) in partnership with several French companies and public organisations use 1.2.3 Environnement to assist enterprises in implementing an EMS. The EMS is based on the AFNOR standard FD X30-205, developed by a standards committee composed of representatives of manufacturers, engineering firms and government. Since 2007, 415 companies have been involved in the implementation of 1.2.3 Environnement. Each regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) in France has a dedicated consultant to help companies establish their working schedule. Companies can also contact an external auditor from the certification organisation for assistance.

Objectives

1.2.3 Environnement aims to facilitate SMEs' achievement of ISO 14001 or EMAS accreditation. The system proposes a gradual approach. The company is free to choose a level corresponding to its situation. The EMS focuses on the environmental impact of working methods and management. The global objective of the first two levels is to bring the company to the last level of completion when ISO 14001 certification or EMAS registration is possible.

Implementation structure

1.2.3 Environnement is implemented by ACFCI and supported by the French Ministry of the Environment and the French Environment Agency (ADEME). Consultants are provided for by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and auditors come from an independent certification organisation.

EMS in brief

Key characteristic

Focus on environmental impacts of working methods and management

Implementing institution

The Assembly of French Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ACFCI)

Available since

2007

Geographical scope

France

Target group

All sectors

Size of targeted companies

SMEs

Total number of certifications

Level 1 – 145

Level 2 – 95

Level 3 – 32 (ISO 14 001 certificate)

Number of participants in the process of certification

415

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: In order to launch the EMS process, formalisation of the commitment of top management is required at level 1.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environmental review: Identification of the main sources of environmental impacts is completed at Level 1. Details on how companies are to do this are described in the FD X30-205 standard "Guidelines to implementing an EMS".
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environmental policy or guidelines: An environmental policy is required at level 2 of the EMS.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Proof of legal compliance: The main environmental legal requirements have to be identified at Level 1. Proof of legal compliance is required by level 3 of the EMS.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Objectives and environmental management programme: An environmental management programme, along with objectives and deadlines is established according to the AFNOR FD X30-205 standard and required at Level 2 of the EMS.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Definition of organisational structure at company level: Development of operational processes and the definition of roles and responsibilities are completed at level 3.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Training and education requirements: Organisation of trainings is addressed at Level 2. Training is offered on the FD 30-205 standard, as well as a regional/collective training entitled "the Environment and the Enterprise".
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Communication (internal and external): Authorisation to use the 1.2.3 Environnement logo on all the official documents and provision of a customised flyer for companies using 1.2.3 Environnement. Organisation of regional outreach and awareness campaigns and internal communication is completed at level 3.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Documentation requirements: Formalisation of necessary documentation and records is required at level 3 of the EMS.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Internal follow-up/ checking and corrective action/ continuous improvement: Assistance towards checking and corrective action is possible through external qualified consultants. Continuous improvement is required and the EMS therefore acts as a stimulus for innovation.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Management review: Management review and an internal audit are required at level 3 of the EMS.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental report/statement or similar publication by participants of the EMS: The company has the option of publishing an environmental statement but it is 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, an external audit is required to obtain the certification.

Responsible for external audit and qualifications needed: Auditors are accredited by the ACFCI. At least 7 companies offer certification on 1.2.3 Environnement.

Audit period: Annual.

Certification: A certificate is delivered at each level, following an audit by an accredited certifier. The certification is valid for a 3-year period with an annual verification audit. At the end of the third year, the company must move to the next level or else lose its certification.

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: Very close
(Note: At level 3 of the EMS, companies can begin the process for EMAS registration)

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