



Summary Brochure

From Environmental Diploma to EMAS



Benefits of a Step-up from Environmental Diploma to EMAS

Most steps towards an EMAS registration have already been taken by organisations that are certified under the Environmental Diploma Göteborg. However, the few additional steps that are required can provide further benefits: improved operational control, control of documents and emergency preparedness and response are likely to lead to risk minimisation and efficiency improvements within organisations. In addition, they can lead to environmental benefits due to a reduced number of environmental incidents. The publication and verification of an environmental statement that is required under EMAS provides organisations with improved communication possibilities. Finally, organisations with an international client base might benefit from the wider geographical scope of EMAS. Whereas the Environmental Diploma Göteborg is implemented in Sweden, EMAS is operational and officially recognised Europe-wide. Finally, EMAS offers the advantage of being legally recognised through a European Council Regulation and certified organisations are listed in a public register.

Introduction

Origin and development

The Göteborg Environment Diploma is a programme that provides smaller companies with easy access to an EMS. In order to emphasise the importance of training and knowledge-building for sustainability issues, the management approach was named the Environment Diploma. The scheme was created by the Environment Administration of the City of Göteborg in 1995. Since then, more than 1000 companies have obtained the Diploma and the programme has spread to 26 other Swedish municipalities. The Environment Diploma scheme is a member of the Swedish Environment Base, an NGO maintaining and developing criteria for non-formal EMS. Environment Diploma is also part of the Nordic Environment Network together with Eco-Lighthouse in Norway, Key2Green in Denmark and EcoCompass in Helsinki, Finland to develop common strategies for non-formal EMS.

As the implementing institution, the Göteborg Environment Administration provides compulsory training for companies wanting to implement the scheme. Local environmental authorities, and to some extent consulting companies, are also involved in offering companies assistance in meeting the audit criteria. In Göteborg, 12 environmental consultants were accredited by the Environment Administration to provide the required environmental training.

As of 2009, approximately 1041 organisations are Environmental Diploma certified in Sweden.

Objectives

The aim of this scheme is to ensure that organisations establish an environmental management system and meet the standards that are set. The criteria of the EMS correspond to ISO 14001 and/or EMAS requirements.

Closeness to EMAS

Environmental Diploma can be considered as a beginning step towards EMAS, as a successful Environmental Diploma certification means that some important steps towards EMAS certification have been taken. However, its easier implementation also means that certain additional steps will have to be taken in order to register under EMAS. The most fundamental of these additional steps lie in the areas of documentation, emergency preparedness, management review, and the environmental report. These steps are outlined on page 2 of this brochure.

For further information on the EMS, please contact:

Environment Diploma Göteborg
Peer-Erik Carlsson – Environment Officer
Tel: +46 31 368 38 30
Email: peer-erik.carlsson@miljo.goteborg.se
Website: www.miljodiplom.se

For further information on these guidelines, please contact:

EMAS Helpdesk
Tel: +33 (0)1 53 90 11 75
Email: emas@biois.com
Website: ec.europa.eu/environment/emas



From Environmental Diploma to EMAS: Additional Steps

Please note that this document provides an overview of additional steps that need to be taken by an organisation to 'step-up' from Environmental Diploma to EMAS. For further details on each requirement, please see the EMAS website on www.ec.europa.eu/environment/emas.

Environmental Diploma already fulfils all EMAS requirements under Step 1, Step 2, and Step 4. However, to obtain EMAS registration, the additional steps that would need to be taken in addition to those already required under the Environmental Diploma include:

Step 3 - Implementation

- **Control of documents and operational control**

Procedures need to be established to control situations that might create significant environmental impacts. Procedures related to significant environmental impacts arising from the use of goods and services need to be communicated to suppliers where necessary.

- **Emergency preparedness and response**

Procedures to mitigate potential risks need to be defined and tested periodically.

Step 5 - External Recognition and Environmental Report

- **Environmental report/ statement**

EMAS requires that an environmental report that includes a description of the organisation, environmental policy, environmental impacts, objectives and targets, summary of available data, reference to legal requirements, name or licence of environmental verifier and date of validation, is updated annually and made available to the public.