

Summary Brochure From Hackefors Model to EMAS



Benefits of a Step-up from Hackefors Model to EMAS

A number of additional steps need to be taken by organisations that want to step-up from Hackefors Model to EMAS. Taking these steps can provide organisations with significant benefits. EMAS offers organisations, for example, increased legal security based on its strict requirements regarding legal compliance. Additional environmental benefits can also be expected as direct and indirect environmental impacts of the organisation will need to be taken into account under EMAS. Moreover, organisations can experience further financial benefits due to reduced resources use and efficiency improvements. An EMAS registration will also provide organisations with improved communication possibilities through third-party auditing and a validated environmental statement. Further employee involvement under EMAS can lead to improved employee morale and a better implementation of the EMS. As Hackefors Model is currently only implemented in Sweden, organisations might also benefit from the larger geographic scope of EMAS. This might be of special interest to organisations with an international client base. 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 Hackefors model was established in Sweden as a way to improve the environmental performance of SMEs and to implement ISO 14001 cluster certifications. It was first implemented in the district of Hackefors by the private company Altea AB. The original Hackefors network consisted of 26 SMEs, which formed an environmental group and implemented a joint EMS. The SMEs in the original network represented a wide range of businesses including the manufacturing, transportation, construction and graphic industries. The network was established in 1995 with EMS implementation starting in 1997. By the beginning of 1999 the group was ISO 14001 certified. Since then the use of the Hackefors model has increased rapidly throughout Sweden. There are now some 24 networks and over 400 SMEs using the model to achieve ISO 14001 certification. Since the Hackefors Model works towards an ISO 14001 certification, the requirements are equivalent.

The private company Altea AB acts as consultant and coordinator and sells the Hackefors Model as a service. As it is a joint system, each company is required to name an environmental coordinator to form the EMS group. Seven of these environmental coordinators are chosen to form a steering committee, which in turn selects a central coordinator to oversee the group's running. There is also a support group consisting of a number of individuals from the participating companies.

Objectives

The model was designed and structured to help SMEs to implement and achieve joint ISO 14001 certification with the idea that group certification makes it easier and cheaper for the participating SMEs.

Closeness to EMAS

The Hackefors Model can be considered as a stepping stone towards EMAS, as a successful Hackefors Model certification means that some important steps towards an 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 employee involvement, documentation, third-party auditing, and the environmental report/statement. These steps are outlined on page 2 of this brochure.

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From Hackefors Model 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 Hackefors Model to EMAS. For further details on each requirement, please see the EMAS website on www.ec.europa.eu/environment/emas.

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

Step 2 - Planning

- **Environmental aspects and review**
Carrying out of an initial environmental review is necessary.
- **Proof of legal compliance**
Legal compliance and implementation of procedures that enable the organisation to constantly meet requirements is needed.
- **Definition of objectives, targets and programmes**
Ability to prove that EMS and audit procedures are based on the current environmental performance is required.

Step 3 - Implementation

- **Employee involvement**
All criteria related to employee involvement need to be fulfilled.
- **Communication**
Open dialogue with the public, openness/ transparency and periodic revision of environmental information are required.
- **Documentation**
Documentation is not necessarily sufficient and it requires a review to fulfil EMAS criteria.

Step 5 - External Recognition and Environmental Report

- **Third-party auditing and audit frequency**
All criteria related to third-party auditing need to be fulfilled.
- **Environmental report/ statement**
All criteria related to the environmental report/statement need to be fulfilled.