



Summary Brochure

From 1.2.3 Environnement to EMAS



Benefits of a Step-up from 1.2.3 Environnement to EMAS

Most steps towards an EMAS registration have already been taken by organisations that are 1.2.3 Environnement certified. However, a step-up from 1.2.3 Environnement to EMAS can nevertheless offer improved communication possibilities through a validated environmental statement. Furthermore, whereas 1.2.3 Environnement is limited in its geographical scope to France, EMAS is operational Europe-wide with the possibility to be implemented and recognised in third countries under the new EMAS regulation. 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

1.2.3 Environnement is a model for the establishment and certification of an environmental management system in three main stages. The third and last step can lead to 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 the 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.

1.2.3 Environnement is implemented by the 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.

As of 2009, approximately 415 organisations in France are either certified under 1.2.3 Environnement or in the process of certification.

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.

Closeness to EMAS

1.2.3 Environnement can be considered a stepping-stone to EMAS because it is a scheme that already fulfils most EMAS requirements. A successful 1.2.3 Environnement certification means that a number of important steps towards an EMAS certification have been taken. However, as of December 2009, no organisations have used 1.2.3 Environnement to step-up to EMAS as the latter is not very developed in France. In addition, there is one additional step that would need to be taken in order to register under EMAS, which is the development of an environmental statement.

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From 1.2.3 Environnement to EMAS: Additional Steps

Please note that this document provides an overview of any additional steps that need to be taken by an organisation to 'step-up' from 1.2.3 Environnement to EMAS. For further details on each requirement, please see the EMAS website on www.ec.europa.eu/environment/emas.

1.2.3 Environnement complies with most EMAS requirements, except for the criteria on establishing an environmental report or statement.

Under level 1 of 1.2.3 Environnement, companies must fulfil requirements related to the initial environmental review, commitment of top management, establishment of an action plan, identification of the most significant environmental impacts, and compliance to legal obligations. Under level 2 of 1.2.3 Environnement, companies must fulfil requirements related to the development of an environmental management programme that is continuously reviewed and improved, anticipation of risks and an emergency preparedness plan, and trainings and awareness raising. Under level 3 of 1.2.3 Environnement, companies must fulfil requirements related to regular internal audits and management review, documentation of planning and operation controls, checking, monitoring, and corrective actions, internal and external communications, and definition of roles and responsibilities.

All of the above requirements of 1.2.3 Environnement also correspond to those included under EMAS. However, to obtain EMAS registration, the additional steps that would need to be taken in addition to those already required under 1.2.3 Environnement include:

Step 5 - External Recognition and Environmental Report

- **Environmental report/ statement**

EMAS requires that an environmental report, which includes a description of the organisation, environmental policy, environmental impacts, objectives and targets, a 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.