

Benefits of a step-up from E+5 to EMAS

e+5 is an EMS that is particularly close to EMAS as Level 6 of e+5 is the EMAS registration. Companies increase their benefits from e+5 with every step that they get closer to EMAS. Apart from the fact that EMAS is recognised outside Spain and that it might be a benefit to communicate the EMAS registration rather than having reached level 6 of e+5, there are no other major benefits. 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

e+5 is based on the BS8555 standard and consists of a step-wise approach. Companies can implement the EMS in 6 different steps. Step 5 leads them to ISO 14001, step 6 to EMAS. Fundación Entorno developed e+5 in 1999. More than 900 companies have participated in the system, which is designed to promote environmental management in the supply chain of companies. Throughout the years Fundación Entorno has launched different programmes related to e+5.

e+5 was developed by Fundación Entorno, a non-profit organisation promoting sustainable development in Spanish companies. The programme has been co-financed by the Spanish Ministry of Science and Technology, with funding from the European Social Fund. Fundación Entorno is both the project manager and implementing organisation. A number of local consultants participate in the implementation of the programme. Fundación Entorno is responsible for contracts with clients and implementation of services for consultancy and auditing. A public tender takes place and at least three offers have to be considered before deciding who is going to implement a specific programme. Since 2004, internal auditors from the client companies receive a comprehensive training on e+5 to guarantee a smooth implementation with the suppliers of the company.

As of summer 2009, e+5 has over 100 certified organisations and approximately 900 participants in the process of certification

Objectives

e+5 has two main objectives: It supports suppliers to advance in a logical and gradual way to implement an environmental management system that improves its environmental performance and is recognised by clients, without having to wait for a full ISO 14001 or EMAS certification. It also provides the client organisations with a tool that enables them to evaluate the environmental performance of its supply chain. In 2004, some of the client organisations integrated social aspects into their e+5 system to bring suppliers closer to sustainability management.

Closeness to EMAS

At level 6 of e+5 organisations can register under EMAS.

For further information on the EMS, please contact:

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For further information on these guidelines, please contact:

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From E+5 to EMAS: Additional Steps

At level 6 of e+5, organisations register under EMAS. At this level there are therefore no additional steps that need to be taken by an organisation to 'step-up' from e+5 to EMAS.