

EMS Factsheet

e+5



Overview

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.

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.

Implementation structure

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 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.

EMS in brief

Key characteristic

Focus on improving environmental performance through the supply chain

Implementing institution

Fundación Entorno

Available since

1999

Geographical scope

Spain

Target group

All sectors

Size of targeted companies

All sizes

Total number of certifications

>100

Number of participants in the process of certification

900

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: Tool for environmental management within the supply chain

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: The first step includes the commitment of management, and is asked for in level 1, step 1.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environmental review: A baseline assessment takes place in step 2 of level 1. It provides an introduction to environmental aspects and impacts. The evaluation of the significance takes place in step 1 of level 3. The company can choose the evaluation methodology.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environmental policy or guidelines: An environmental policy is prepared in level 1, step 3 and finalised in step 2 of level 3.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Proof of legal compliance: Step 2 of level 1 provides an introduction to legal and other requirements. Level 2 is focussing on legal compliance. It is expected that all legal and other requirements are fulfilled. Companies do not have to prove legal compliance, but have to provide a plan on how to get to the point that legal compliance will be guaranteed.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Objectives and environmental management programme: Objectives have to be defined in step 3 of level 3. Objectives must relate to each significant environmental aspect and be consistent with the environmental policy. The environmental management programme should contain concrete measures, time frames, responsibilities and necessary resources to reach each of the goals. (Step 5 of level 3).
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Definition of organisational structure at company level: Step 1 of level 4 requires the formalisation of the organisational structure of environmental management at the company level.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Training and education requirements: Training and education is supported throughout the EMS process to guarantee continuous improvement. Employees receive training on the contents of each level.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Communication (internal and external): Step 3 of level 4 is dedicated to the establishment of communication channels (internal and external). Internal communication channels and the integration of the employees are the core part of communication at e+5.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Documentation requirements Step 4 of level 4 contains requirements related to documentation, control of documents, etc.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Internal follow- up/ checking and corrective action/ continuous improvement: Step 1 of level 5 defines the requirements for internal auditing of the EMS to ensure that it works as efficiently as possible. Continuous improvement is required and the EMS therefore acts as a stimulus for innovation.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Management review: Meetings should be held to revise the way the EMS works. This takes place in step 3 of level 5.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environmental report/ statement or similar publication by the participants of the EMS: Required in step 5 of level 6 and only necessary for those companies who want to be EMAS certified.
<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.

Responsibility for external audit and qualifications needed: Since 2004, an internet based self-certification module is available. Depending on the results, the team of local consultants decide which companies can opt for an external audit or receive consultancy services.

Audit Period: All companies participate in an initial audit to decide from which step they initially start.

Certification: Only companies at levels 1-4 are certifiable. Certification is valid for 1 year. After 1 year the company must prove that it reached the next level. At level 5, the company complies with ISO certification, and level 6 to EMAS certification.

Similarities to EMAS

- ☒ Initial environmental review
- ☒ Environmental policy
- ☒ Legal Compliance
- ☒ Employees 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: Stage 6 of the EMS implies that the organisation meets all EMAS criteria)

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