



Summary Brochure

From Green Dragon to EMAS



Benefits of a Step-up from Green Dragon to EMAS

Most steps towards an EMAS registration have already been taken by organisations that are Green Dragon certified. However, the few additional steps that are required can provide further benefits: communication with the public will be improved in order to comply with EMAS, and risks can be further minimised through the implementation of all emergency preparedness and response requirements. Organisations with an international client base might benefit from the wider geographical scope of EMAS. Whereas the Green Dragon is implemented in the UK and Ireland, 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 Green Dragon Environmental Standard was originally set up by Groundwork Wales together with ARENA Network, to help companies in Wales to develop an EMS in stages. The Green Dragon Standard quickly spread to Northern Ireland and there are now more than 1000 registered organisations throughout the UK and Ireland. The EMS has been recognised by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS). Groundwork Wales provides support to communities with the purpose to build sustainable communities through joint environmental action.

Groundwork Wales works in partnership with the main agencies in Wales, e.g. the Environment Agency and local authorities. Since May 2009, Groundwork Wales is the sole owner of the Standard and the only body able to issue Green Dragon certification.

As of 2009, a total of 225 organisations were in the process of certification.

Objectives

The Green Dragon Environmental Standard aims to provide simple and progressive steps towards a formal EMS for any organisation, large or small in the UK and Ireland. This standard is a documented way for organisations to prove they are abiding by the legislation and that their activity is controlled to ensure the protection of the environment. There are five levels of the Green Dragon Standard and each level is certified. Should companies not achieve formal EMS registration, such as EMAS and ISO 14001, then the Green Dragon Standard will still provide them with certified recognition of their steps taken in that direction.

Closeness to EMAS

The Green Dragon can be considered as an important stepping-stone to EMAS, as a successful Green Dragon certification means most steps towards an EMAS certification have been taken. Additional steps that would need to be taken for a successful EMAS registration lie in the areas of communication and emergency preparedness and response. These steps are outlined on page 2 of this brochure.

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

Green Dragon already fulfils all EMAS requirements under Step 1, Step 2, Step 4, and Step 5. The additional steps that would need to be taken include:

Step 3 - Implementation

- **Communication**
Open dialogue with the public and general openness and transparency is required.
- **Emergency preparedness and response**
Periodic testing needs to be implemented.