

EMS Factsheet Ekoscan



Overview

Origin and development

Ekoscan was established in 1998 and has been constantly updated and developed ever since. In 2004 it became a certifiable standard, which has been successfully implemented by 202 companies so far. The Ekoscan certificate does not only mean that an environmental improvement plan has been defined, but also that the plan has had real results. Organisations that reach the second stage, in which the fulfilment of the environmental legal requirements are verified, obtain the Ekoscan Plus Certificate. The EMS is concentrated in the Basque Country in Spain and is implemented by IHOBE, a public company responsible for environmental management in the Basque country.

Objectives

The Ekoscan scheme responds to the need to define an objective and transparent system that acknowledges, through external assessment, the efforts to improve environmental practices made by many organisations. It helps companies systemise environmental management and ensures compliance with the applicable environmental legislation.

Implementation structure:

The Department for Environment and Land of the Basque government sponsors the Ekoscan programme. IHOBE (a public company working in environmental management and fully dependant on the Basque government) is the intellectual driver behind the initiative, serves as an administrator, and initiates further development. Different private consultancies support the implementation of Ekoscan. IHOBE signed agreements with 7 certification bodies (AENOR, BV-ECA, DnV, IAC, LQRA, SGS, TÜV), to develop the EMS as a certifiable standard.

EMS in brief

Key characteristic

Focus on companies in the Basque Country (Spain)

Implementing institution

IHOBE

Available since

1998 (since 2004 as a certifiable standard)

Geographical scope

Basque Country (Spain)

Target group

All types of companies in the Basque region

Size of targeted companies

Small and medium sized enterprises

Total number of certifications

202 (711 used the programme without certification)

Number of participants in the process of certification

n/a

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: n/a

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: Top management is required to commit to the improvement of environmental performance and to define roles and responsibilities for environmental management inside the company.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environmental review: Companies are required to define the certification scope by identifying activities, products, and services that will be taken into account. Direct environmental impacts need to be identified considering both normal and abnormal situations. Performance indicators need to be defined and environmental aspects, quantified.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environmental policy or guidelines: The EMS requires a written commitment from the company to continuous improvement for pollution prevention, the adaptation to applicable legislation, and the establishment of plans for this purpose. This commitment has to be actively distributed to employees and needs to be available to stakeholders upon request.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Proof of legal compliance: Legal requirements need to be identified and the level of conformance needs to be determined. Full legal compliance is required within a maximum period of 3 years after certification.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Objectives and environmental management programme: After the prioritisation of environmental aspects, at least two have to be chosen and quantifiable targets have to be defined. Additionally, an environmental improvement plan containing specific actions, and responsibilities is required.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Definition of the organisational structure at company level: An environmental manager and environmental teams need to be defined.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Training and education requirements: Awareness raising is one of the tasks of the environmental teams, no training and education requirements.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Communication (internal and external): Environmental commitment needs to be communicated to all employees. Information about the environmental management system needs to be available to stakeholders.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Documentation requirements: Documentation on the following aspects is obligatory: environmental aspects, degree of compliance with laws and regulations, feasibility of measures, and yearly monitoring. There are no rules on the form of documentation.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Internal follow-up/ checking and corrective action/ continuous improvement: Not explicitly mentioned, but through management audits etc., it is implicitly covered. As the scheme needs to be reviewed on a regular basis, it can be expected that it acts as a driver for innovation.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Management review: Management needs to approve environmental measures and to review the scheme.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental report/ statement or similar publication by the participants of the EMS: Upon request, the results of the environmental management must be made available to stakeholders, no environmental report required.

☒ Yes/Required
 ☒ Partially addressed
 ☐ Not indicated or not required

External audit/certification

Is an external audit required? Yes

Responsibility for the external audit and qualifications needed: Companies that fulfil the requirements of the Ekoscan standard are audited by independent certification bodies (LRQA, Bureau Veritas, DnV, AENOR, SGS, TÜV)

Audit period: Annual

Certification: After a successful audit companies are certified by IHOBE with the Ekoscan Certificate.

Similarities to EMAS

- ☒ Initial environmental review
- ☒ Environmental policy
- ☒ Legal compliance
- ☒ Employee involvement
- ☒ Planning
- ☒ Implementation
- ☒ Checking and corrective action
- ☒ Continuous improvement
- ☒ Management review
- ☒ Certification
- ☐ Environmental statement
- ☐ Validation of environmental statement

Relation of the EMS to EMAS: Close

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