Environmental Management System

ISO 14001
ISO 14001 is applicable to any organisation that wishes to establish, implement, maintain and improve an Environmental Management System, to assure itself of conformity with its stated environmental policy, and to demonstrate conformity with ISO 14001:2004 (SANS 14001:2005)

What is an Environmental Management System (EMS)?

An Environmental Management System (EMS) is a systematic approach of dealing with the environmental aspects of an organisation. An EMS is concerned with what an organisation does to minimise its effects on the environment through its activities. It is a ‘tool’ that enables companies to control the impacts of their activities, products or services on the natural environment in a disciplined and systematic way.

A paradigm shift in business practice and environmental management has become a key consideration in the decision making processes of companies around the world. While this is driven by a paradigm shift in contemporary business practice, environmental legal requirements and market opportunities accorded to companies which display that they are environmentally friendly is a driving force behind companies implementing an effective Environmental Management System.

An effective EMS is one that adopts a holistic view of economic development and strives to balance financial gains with sustainable use of the environment and its natural resources.

The efficacy of a company’s Environmental Management System is illustrated through its objectives in striving to reduce its impact on the atmosphere, land, water and biodiversity.

The achievement of set objectives and demonstration of continual improvement in achieving environmental management targets as set by a company provides an additional advantage of demonstrating the effectiveness of the company’s EMS.

Additionally, seeking certification of one’s EMS provides security for a company’s operations, access to markets and assurance that the system is audited accordingly and thus is internationally recognised.

The standard emphasises that an EMS should be part of an organisation’s overall management system. Thus ISO 14001:2004 (SANS 14001:2005) acknowledges that the critical success factor for the implementation of effective EMS is the buy-in from top management.

Legal Compliance

As companies are faced with the pressures of complying with various international environmental laws and regulations, ISO 14001:2004 (SANS 14001:2005) requires that a company keeps its legal register of laws that are applicable to its operation. By seeking to comply with these laws, a company is assured of protection and compliance with all legal requirements.

Reduced Liabilities

If a company understands the environmental legislation that applies to its operation, it can reduce liability. Verification of compliance to legal requirements through legal audit assures that the company is vigilant of all potential liabilities associated with its operation, and therefore strives to reduce them. To ensure that a company is up-to-date with all its legal requirements, ISO 14001:2004 (SANS 14001:2005) requires that a legal audit be conducted prior to a company’s certification of its EMS and every year thereafter.

Effective Corporate Governance

Good corporate governance details terms for accountability and responsibility of Directors towards shareholders and stakeholders. Over and above reporting on purely financial issues, companies must also report on broader economic, social and environmental facets. ISO 14001:2004 (SANS 14001:2005), requires companies to keep records and data pertaining to environmental targets. This ensures that the company has enough environmental information to report on and share with investors and shareholders.

Meeting Customer Demands

As the demand for “green” products increase, companies with a registered EMS enjoy the benefit of their products being accepted by environmentally conscious consumers.
Access to Loans and Financial Assistance

There is an emerging trend from financial institutions to provide priority to environmentally secured companies. Having an effective certified EMS ensures that your company derives the benefit and thus enjoys better recognition from financial institutions and investors.

Costing

The cost of becoming ISO 14001 certified is dependent on the following factors:

• The size of the company.
• The location of the company.
• The scope of registration.
• The EA code classification.

The costing structure is based on a fixed man-day rate. The number of man-days spent at an organisation depends on the size and complexity of the organisation, and the prescribed minimum number of man-days that should be spent at an organisation is specified in the IAF Guidance on the application of ISO 17021:2011.

The quotation is calculated on the basis of the size of the organisation, taking into account a reduction for shift workers, and the technological complexity of the organisation, which may necessitate the use of technical experts.

Areas Of Business Where SANS ISO 14001 Is Applicable:

• Agriculture and fishing.
• Basic metals and fabricated metal products.
• Chemicals, chemical products and fibres.
• Concrete, cement, lime plaster, etc.
• Construction.
• Electrical and optical equipment.
• Electrical supply.
• Engineering services.
• Financial intermediation: real estate, renting.
• Food products, beverages and tobacco.
• Gas supply.
• Information technology.
• Leather and leather products.
• Machinery and equipment.
• Mining and quarrying.
• Manufacturing (not elsewhere classified).
• Manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products.
• Non-metallic mineral products.
• Other transport equipment.
• Pharmaceuticals.
• Pulp and paper products.
• Rubber and plastics.
• Textile and textile products.
• Transport, storage and communication.
• Water supply.
• Wood and wood products.
• Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods.

Why Choose The SABS For The Certification Of Your Company’s EMS?

We are accredited in South Africa by SANAS and internationally by the RvA of the Netherlands to perform management system certification.

SABS is an internationally recognised certification body that provides a wide range of quality assurance and EMS.

By means of its focused training programmes, the SABS actively assists industry in creating an overall awareness of quality and the environment.

The SABS provides a country wide service in training quality system environmental auditors.

• Professional and competent auditors.
• Market knowledge and experience.
• We customise the audit programmes.
• We promote integrated management systems for ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001 to save costs.
• We optimise the use of time and resources in keeping costs to a minimum.
• We provide long term relations to ensure global competitive standards.

How Does A Company Benefit From An EMS?

An EMS assists the company to improve its business, reduce environmental risks and reduce the company’s impact on the environment. In addition to this, an EMS:

• Helps a company improve their occupational health and safety by creating a healthy working environment.
• Can assure customers of a company’s commitment to responsible environmental management and legal compliance.
• Helps a company to maintain good public and community relations.
• Enhances the image and market share of the company.
• Improves cost control.
• Demonstrates a responsible caring attitude.
• Conserves input material and energy.
• Helps in the development and sharing of environmental solutions.
• Helps improve relations between government and industry.
GAUTENG
HEAD OFFICE: Pretoria
1 Dr Lategan Road, Groenkloof
Private Bag X191, Pretoria, 0001
Tel 012 428 7911    Fax 012 344 1568

EAST COAST REGION
REGIONAL OFFICE: Durban
15 Garth Road, Mayville
P.O. Box 30087, Mayville, 4058
Tel 031 203 2900    Fax 031 203 2907

REGIONAL OFFICE: Port Elizabeth
The Acres Office Park, 20 Nile Road, Perridgevale
P.O. BOX 3013, North End, Port Elizabeth, 6056
Tel 041 391 8400    Fax 086 775 8605

BRANCH OFFICE: East London
1 Teichmann Place, off Chester Road, Sunnyridge.
P.O. Box 5156, Greenfields, East London, 5208
Tel 043 736 2351/52/53    Fax 043 736 1175

WEST COAST REGION
REGIONAL OFFICE: Cape Town
Liesbeek Park Way, Rosebank, Cape Town
P.O. Box 615, Rondebosch, Cape Town, 7701
Tel 021 681 6700    Fax 021 681 6701

www.sabs.co.za