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ISO 14001:2015- Environmental management System

Overview

- It's Environmental Management System (EMS) Standard, published by the International Organization of Standards (ISO).
- It can be used by any organization, large or small, regardless of its field of activity, be they private, not-for-profit or governmental.
- The purpose of this International Standard is to provide organizations with a framework to protect the environment and respond to changing environmental conditions in balance with **socio-economic needs**.
- Sustainable development as a goal is achieved by balancing the three pillars of sustainability (environment, society and the economy) is considered essential to meet
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- It specifies requirements that enable an organization to achieve the intended outcomes it sets for its environmental management system.

Benefits

- It helps organizations improve their environmental performance through **more efficient use of resources and reduction of waste**, gaining a competitive advantage and the trust of stakeholders.
- A systematic approach to environmental management can provide top management to build success over the long term and create options for contributing to sustainable development by:
 - protecting the environment by preventing or mitigating adverse environmental impacts;
 - mitigating the potential adverse effect of environmental conditions on the organization;
 - assisting the organization in the fulfilment of compliance obligations (Legal Requirements);
 - enhancing environmental performance;
 - controlling or influencing the way the organization's products and services are designed, manufactured, distributed, consumed and disposed by using a life cycle perspective that can prevent environmental impacts from being unintentionally shifted elsewhere within the life cycle;
 - achieving financial and operational benefits that can result from implementing environmentally sound alternatives that strengthen the organization's market position;
 - communicating environmental information to relevant interested parties.This International Standard, like other

Approach of Standard

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- The basis for the approach underlying an environmental management system is founded on the concept of Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA). The PDCA model provides an iterative process used by organizations to achieve continual improvement.

It can be applied to an environmental management system and to each of its individual elements. It can be briefly described as follows.

- **Plan:** establish environmental objectives and processes necessary to deliver results in accordance with the organization's environmental policy.
 - **Do:** implement the processes as planned.
 - **Check:** monitor and measure processes against the environmental policy, including its commitments, environmental objectives and operating criteria, and report the results.
 - **Act:** take actions to continually improve.
- It requires that an organization considers all environmental issues relevant to its operations, **such as air pollution, water and sewage issues, waste management, soil contamination, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and resource use and efficiency.**
 - Risk-based thinking enables an organization to determine the factors that could cause its processes and its quality management system to deviate from the planned results, to put in place preventive controls to minimize negative effects and to make maximum use of opportunities as they arise.
 - A focus on life-cycle thinking to ensure consideration of **environmental aspects** from development to end-of-life.

Implementation Steps

1. Gap Analysis
2. Awareness Training
3. Training of Environment Aspect and Impact Analysis
4. Environmental Policy and Environmental Objectives Finalization
5. Documentation/Process Design
6. Documentation / Process Implementation
7. Internal Audit
8. Corrective Action to close non conformances
10. Management Review Meeting
11. Stage 1 Audit by Certification Body
12. Corrective Action to close non conformances if any

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13. Stage 2 Audit by Certification Body

Cost

Cost of consultancy is ultimately determined by factors such as the organisation's size, its industry, number of employees, number of locations and choice of Certification Body.