ALLIANCE FOR ENVIRONMENT

Environmental management and auditing scheme - EMAS

In the most recent developments for business development, the good management of organizations is more frequently defined as " responsibility toward society". The concern for environmental protection and decrease harmful impact upon it is part of this responsibility in global aspect.

Waste minimization, economically use of electrical energy and more efficient resource use leads to significant costs reduction for an organization and improves (minimize) the impact of its activity upon the environment.

The Environmental management and auditing scheme – EMAS is a voluntary initiative, developed for promoting the diminution of the harmful impact upon the environment that the organization's activity has.
The EMAS directive 1836/93 is published for the first time in June 1993 as an tool for environmental policy of the EU, oriented towards sustainable development.

The new EC directive –761/2001 on EMAS is published in 2001 that replaces, the old one - 1836/93 and broadens the scope of EMAS for organizations of all type, including the state administration.

The EMAS goal is to stimulate enterprises to go beyond the minimum environmental legal requirements and to continuously improve their environmental management system.

EMAS requires that organizatinos publish publish and the so called " Environmental declaration". It contains information about their achievements and results of the undertooked measures for lessening the harmful impact upon the environmental equilibria.Besides, the EMAS registered companies adopt the EMAS logo that permits them to announce their participation in the scheme.

The EMAS scheme is applicable to all organizations,regardless of their type, size and business activities.The EMAS regulation is applicable to all 25 EC member states , for the three countries within the frame of the European Economic Area – Norway, Lihtenstainand Island, as well as for all countries that are preparing their membership in the European Union .

In "Governmental newspaper", issue 26 from2003 /ammendmet in GN issue31 from 2003/ was published the regulation adopted by the Councilof Ministers for National Environmental management and auditing scheme. It is adopted on the basis of art 136. From the Envrionmental Protection Act and brings the European Union Regulation 761/2001 for voluntary partisipation of organizations in the European Community EMAS sheme into the Bulgarian legislation.

The adoption of the regulation is part of the harmonization of the Bulgarian legislation with that of the EC.

EMAS and ISO 14001
EMAS and the interntional standard ISO 14001 hava a common goal: provision of instructions for effective eenvironmental management. The European Commission accepts the EN ISQ 14001 as basis for registration according to EMAS.

EMAS exceeds the EN ISQ 14001 requirements, since it contains a requirement for implementation of initial comprehensive review of the environmental issues, impact and performance related to the activities of the organization, active participation of the organization´s employees in the process of compliance with the EMAS requirements and publication of information intended for the public and all interested from the organization parties.

The mian differences between EMAS and EN ISO 14001 are as follows:
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- **Initial Review –** EMAS requires an Initial environmental Review while ISO 14001 does not contains such a requirement.
- **Public access**- according to EMAS the policy, programme and the environmental management system of the organizatino as well as details related to its activities for decreasing the harmful impact upon the environmental, should be available to the society as part of the "Environmental Declaration".
- **Suppliers and Contractors** – The EMAS scheme requires that the suppliers and contractors of the organization to comply with its environmental policy. Besides, the issues related to the suppliers, should be subject of the environmental management system. According to EN ISQ 14001 the organizations should inform their suppliers and contractors for someprocedures of the system.
- **Rendering–** The EN ISQ 14001 standard does not set the level to which the functioning of the environmental management system should be improved. EMAS indicates that that organizatino should decrease its harmful impact upon the environment to a level, which does not exceeds the level, achieved in economically profitablly application of the best available technology.

The new EMAS permits the certified according to EN ISO 14001 organizations to obtain an EMAS registration. In this case, they should undertakeadditional steps, to satisfy the EMAS requirements.

The Agency for Sustainable Development and Eurointegration, with the support of Ministry of Environment and Water and Ministry of Economy and in cooperation with Ministry of Environment of the province of Hessen has established an NGO – ALLIANCE FOR ENVIRONMENT, based on the example of similar strucures in Germany. A general agreement for partnership is prepared with the Executive Agency – Bulgaria Accrediation Office as well as with Sofia Municipality. Small and medium enterprises and local administrations are welcomed to participate in the initiative.

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ALLIANCE for ENVIRONMENT