

EMS Factsheet

QuB



Overview

Origin and development

An environmental management system for handicraft companies in Bavaria was developed in 1997 through an initiative of the President of the Chamber of Handicraft Mittelfranken. In 2005 the EMS was renamed Qualitätsverbund Umweltbewusster Betriebe (QuB – Quality Association of environmentally conscious companies) and the focus was broadened to allow non-handicraft companies to participate in the EMS. Additionally the geographical focus broadened over time. Whereas the initial focus was exclusively on Bavaria, Chambers of Commerce and Handicraft from other federal states (Hamburg, Bremen, Saxony, Thuringen, Schleswig-Holstein) also started to implement the system. As of June 2009, a total of 647 companies (of which more than 550 in Bavaria) have participated in QuB.

Objectives

It is the main objective of QuB to have an EMS that is tailored to the needs of SMEs. Apart from environmental management, it also includes issues of quality management, occupational health and safety and organisational development.

Implementation structure:

Government departments, Chambers of Commerce and Handicraft, and environmental institutions are responsible for the implementation of QuB. The Chamber of Handicraft in Mittelfranken remains the leading implementing agency. External consultants are responsible for the environmental audits.

EMS in brief

Key characteristic

Focus not only on environmental management, but also quality management, occupational health and safety and organisational development

Implementing institution

Chamber of Handicraft
Mittelfranken, Germany

Available since

1997

Geographical scope

Federal States of Bayern,
Schleswig Holstein, Thüringen,
City of Hamburg

Target group

All sectors

Size of targeted companies

SMEs

Total number of certifications

647

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: Allows companies to participate in the Umweltpakt Bayern

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: Management commits itself to the EMS and to implement at least one environmental measure per year. Furthermore it guarantees compliance with the criteria catalogue and relevant environmental legislation.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environmental review: The company has to prepare a weakness analysis. All environmental impacts have to be listed and quantified where possible.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental policy or guidelines: Not required.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Proof of legal compliance: Legal compliance is a basic requirement to participate in QuB. During the audit, this is checked by an external consultant.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Objectives and environmental management programme: At least one environmental measure has to be implemented each year.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Definition of organisational structure at company level: The company has to define responsibilities and competences of employees involved in the environmental management programme. A contact person for external inquiries needs to be appointed.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Training and education requirements: A yearly training of all employees in regard to environmental issues is obligatory and needs to be documented. Many companies inform their employees on a monthly basis about new developments. Additional environmental trainings on specific topics or events are obligatory.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Communication (internal and external): There are no internal communication requirements. Information related to environmental impacts of products and services have to be provided to clients on the basis of security information sheets.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Documentation requirements: The extent of how successful environmental measures are implemented should be documented. All training-related information should also be documented. Information regarding the maintenance of technical equipment and cars must also be made available.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Internal follow- up/ checking and corrective action/ continuous improvement: Internal follow- up is not a part of the EMS as it is regarded as too costly. The external audit is sufficient. At least one environmental measure per year needs to be implemented, which means that continuous improvement is required and the EMS will act as a driver for innovation.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Management review: Not required.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environmental report/ statement or similar publication by the participants of the EMS: An environmental report of at least two pages is obligatory. It needs to be available for all interested parties. In case that the participation in QuB is documented on the website, a printed version of the environmental report is not necessary.

☒ 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:

LGA InterCert GmbH or consultants authorised by LGA InterCert conduct the audits. LGA InterCert is a subsidiary of the TUEV Rheinland consortium located in Nuremberg.

Audit period: Twice a year.

Certification: The certification includes a company visit with employee interviews, a check of the documentation and verification of legal compliance. Successful companies are certified.

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: **Not Close**

For further information on the EMS, please contact:

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