



Summary Brochure

From ECOPROFIT to EMAS



Benefits of a Step-up from ECOPROFIT to EMAS

A number of additional steps need to be taken by organisations that want to step-up from Ecoprofit to EMAS. Taking these steps can provide organisations with significant benefits. EMAS offers organisations, for example, increased legal security based on its strict requirements regarding legal compliance. Additional environmental benefits can also be expected as indirect environmental impacts of the organisation will need to be taken into account under EMAS. Moreover, organisations can experience further financial benefits due to, for example, reduced use of resources, efficiency improvements and better risk management. An EMAS registration will also provide organisations with improved communication possibilities through a validated environmental statement. Finally, further employee involvement and training under EMAS can lead to improved employee morale and a better implementation of the EMS. Finally, EMAS offers the advantage of being legally recognised through a European Council Regulation and certified organisations are listed in a public register.

Introduction

Origin and development

ECOPROFIT (**EC**ological **PRO**ject **For** Integrated Environmental Technology) was developed by the Environment Department of the City of Graz, Austria in 1991 in collaboration with the Technical University of Graz to create a win-win model that would benefit companies and institutions economically in cooperation with local authorities and to improve the local environment. In 1996 the Cleaner Production Center (CPC) was set up with the objective to establish the ECOPROFIT scheme worldwide. The ECOPROFIT programme is considered as a stepping stone to a formal EMS such as EMAS and ISO14001. ECOPROFIT is now being implemented in 19 countries on four continents, mostly in Austria and Germany. ECOPROFIT is focused on the practical and solution-orientated implementation of improvement measures. It is open to companies/institutions of all sectors and sizes. Whereas the EMS was originally focused on small and medium sized enterprises, this is no longer the case. The programme is based on two steps: The Basic programme, which consists of a workshop series as well as individual consultations of at least 5 days per company, during which an implementation programme is developed. This is followed by the Club programme where the cooperation between participating companies, consultants, and local authorities is the focus in order to share knowledge and benefit from synergies and to ensure continuous development and the implementation of new measures. CPC Austria is the international certification and development centre with headquarter in Graz/Austria. Within the context of the "ECOPROFIT Academy", CPC Austria trains consultants and members of local authorities on the ECOPROFIT method. As of 2009, approximately 3000 organisations are ECOPROFIT certified in Germany, 400 in Austria and 200 in other countries.

Objectives

Through the use of integrated environmental technologies, companies that implement ECOPROFIT will benefit from cost savings. At the same time the implemented measures will lead to an improvement of the local environment. All three dimensions of sustainability are taken into account through environmental, social, and economic objectives.

Closeness to EMAS

ECOPROFIT is considered as a stepping-stone to EMAS by many organisations. A successful ECOPROFIT certification means that a number of important steps towards an EMAS certification have been taken. However, its easier implementation also means that certain additional steps will have to be taken in order to register under EMAS. The most fundamental of these additional steps lie in the areas of legal security, documentation, internal audits, management review, and the environmental statement. These steps are outlined on page 2 of this brochure.

For further information on the EMS, please contact:

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For further information on these guidelines, please contact:

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From ECOPROFIT to EMAS: Additional Steps

Please note that this document provides an overview of additional steps that need to be taken by an organisation to 'step-up' from ECOPROFIT to EMAS. For further details on each requirement, please see the EMAS website on www.ec.europa.eu/environment/emas.

Step 1 - Setting the Baseline

- **Environmental policy/guidelines**

The environmental policy requires a review to conform to EMAS requirements

Step 2 - Planning

- **Environmental aspects and review**

Direct and indirect environmental aspects need to be identified and evaluated. The environmental survey needs to be assessed.

- **Proof of legal compliance**

Procedures need to be implemented that enable organisations to continuously meet legal requirements. A case study on 'ECOPROFIT to EMAS shows that EMAS provides additional legal security and that legal records might need to be reorganised in order to comply with EMAS.

- **Definition of objectives, targets and programmes**

It needs to be proven that the environmental management system and audit procedures are based on the current environmental performance of the organisation

Step 3 - Implementation

- **Employee involvement**

An employee information scheme needs to be implemented

- **Training and awareness raising**

Training needs for individual employees need to be defined

- **Communication**

General openness and transparency regarding environmental information need to be ensured. Environmental information needs to be revised periodically.

- **Documentation**

Documentation is not necessarily sufficient under ECOPROFIT and requires a review to conform with EMAS requirements.

- **Control of documents and operational control**

Procedures need to be established to control situations that might create significant environmental impacts. Procedures related to significant environmental impacts arising from the use of goods and services need to be communicated to suppliers where necessary.

- **Emergency preparedness and response**

Procedures to mitigate potential risks need to be defined and tested periodically.

Step 4 - Check and Act

- **Checking and corrective action**

Procedures for non-conformity and for taking corrective and preventive actions need to be established.

- **Internal audit**

Regular internal audits need to be implemented. They need to be carried out by objective and impartial auditors and their results have to be communicated to management.

- **Management review**

Management needs to review the entire EMS at planned intervals, including recommendations for improvement and need for changes.

Step 5 - External Recognition and Environmental Report

- **Third-party auditing and audit frequency**

The role and tasks of an external auditor need to be sufficiently clarified. The certificate needs to be issued under one of the accreditation procedures recognised by the European Commission.

- **Environmental report/ statement**

The environmental statement is not sufficient and requires a review to conform to EMAS requirements.