

Background

The Eroski commercial network consists of nearly 2440 stores, of which 116 are Eroski hypermarkets, 1029 Eroski center or Caprabo supermarkets, 274 Eroski travel agencies, 53 stations, 44 Forum sport stores, 308 IF drugstores, 6 ABAC leisure and culture shops and 28 platforms. Internationally Eroski has stores in France and Andorra.



For the last 40 years, Eroski has been giving 10% of its benefits for social action. Funds are channelled through the Eroski foundation and mainly invested in three types of projects: Community information and consumer education, environmental protection and solidarity.

Caring for the environment and protecting biodiversity are challenges that Eroski is fighting on a daily basis and in which it involved its suppliers and customers. The methodology that is used in Eroski to rank the environmental performance of all suppliers is e+5. This methodology takes EMAS as a reference. Step 6 of e+5 equals a registration with EMAS. To be able to classify the suppliers Eroski is implementing audits and assigns an initial level to all suppliers. To classify as a supplier, companies that want to work with Eroski need to at least fulfill level 2 of e+5.

Reasons for implementing e+5 in the supply chain

The main objective of Eroski is to enhance the implementation of environmental management systems, and given its position in the supply chain, to act as a driver with its own suppliers by using e+5. In recent years, the number of suppliers, especially within Eroski's own brands, has increased significantly, and thus, the number of companies working with Eroski who do not have any environmental management system. In the same way that the group is committed to the environment, it is seen as essential to expand this responsibility among suppliers to deliver environmentally sustainable services to the final customers. Eroski does not intend to force its subcontractors and / or suppliers to have an EMS. However, the obligatory implementation of the first steps of e+5 helps to raise awareness concerning the importance of EMS such as EMAS.

Suppliers are audited with a view to assessing their environmental performance when they work with Eroski and in the following years to assess the improvements in environmental management. Suppliers receive support from Eroski in implementing and improving environmental management.

Challenges for the implementation of EMAS

The main problem identified by Eroski is the fact that many of the suppliers are very small companies with little environmental awareness. That is the main reason why Eroski has not taken the position to require the implementation of EMAS or a similar EMS from its suppliers, but rather to take over a role of awareness raising and support throughout the course of implementation.