

# Systematic Environmental Management Creating Added Value with EMAS

The Differences Between EMAS and ISO 14001



# EMAS

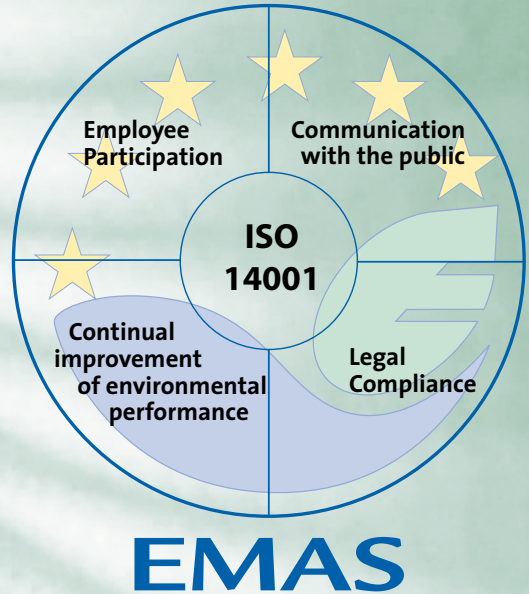
VERIFIED  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
MANAGEMENT

# EMAS in Comparison to ISO 14001

## What Characteristics set EMAS apart?

**EMAS is the most comprehensive Environmental Management and Audit Scheme** for the improvement of environmental performance for enterprises and organisations. This voluntary instrument of the European Union for eco-management and auditing is open to organisations of all sizes and sectors, and covers the requirements of DIN EN ISO 14001 and in this sense is applicable worldwide.

In significant aspects, however, EMAS provides more: tangible improvement in environmental performance, validated legal compliance, and comprehensible transparency through environmental reporting.



### The Unique Quality of EMAS is primarily the result of the following:

- the environmental review to determine the organisation's current status
- consistent orientation towards continuous improvement of environmental performance
- standardised indicators of significant environmental aspects
- intensive participation of employees



- an evaluation system that is both transparent and monitored by the Federal Ministry for the Environment through environmental verifiers who are specifically accredited or licensed for EMAS
- Detailed information made available to the public through the validated environmental statement
- Validated legal compliance as a precondition of participation and
- Publically accessible register of EMAS Participants

**EMAS includes** legal regulations of the accreditation, licensing and supervision of the EMAS verifiers as well as the registration of enterprises and organisations. This includes inquiries to environmental authorities concerning legal compliance, which contributes to the special credibility of EMAS.

# EMAS – Added Value through Environmental Performance



While ISO 14001 focuses on improving the management system, EMAS organisations commit to the continuous improvement of their **environmental performance** beyond legal requirements. This includes measurable aims and objectives as well as regular internal and third-party audits that determine whether the planned improvements of environmental activities have been achieved.

In this way, EMAS organisations keep track of their current environmental situation and their possibilities for ecologic improvement. The environmental verifier's assessment of the environmental performance at the time of the EMAS validation is an important part of this overview. Over and above the establishment and maintenance of a management system, as well as the public controls, EMAS facilitates long-term innovation and the positive development of environmental performance in all companies and organisations.

## Core Indicators

The key concern of EMAS is the improvement of environmental performance. This is recorded and presented in the environmental statement which includes standardised and tangible performance indicators – at least with regard to the significant environmental aspects such as energy efficiency, material efficiency, waste, water, emissions and biodiversity. Improvements and trends can be meaningfully compared over a number of time periods, even if external circumstances change. These indicators allow not only for comparison within the company, but also for benchmarking within the sector. The indicators of the EMAS Regulation were selected with the aim to clarify EMAS-participants' contributions in international climate change efforts pursuant to the Kyoto Protocol. Additionally, these same parameters are used by the German Federal Statistical Office for indicator reports with regard to sustainable development in Germany.

*Why would a supply company with only limited contact to clients and no contact with consumers need EMAS?*

That depends upon your company's mission statement. If you consider environmental protection to be part of all your business responsibilities, then it is only consistent to practice this in a thorough and ongoing way in your company. If your contract partners associate the quality of your products and services with a verifiable environmental performance, then there is enough reason to inform yourself about the possibilities that EMAS offers.

# EMAS – Added Value Through Communication

EMAS organisations have nothing to conceal. Whereas external communication can be omitted to a large extent with ISO 14001, dialogue with the public is an indispensable part of the environmental management system under EMAS. One aspect of this public interaction is the environmental statement, a written summary of the most significant information, facts and figures, as well as a self-committed program for the improvement of organisation's environmental impacts and performance.

The EMAS Regulation defines the basic reporting requirements. The EMAS environmental verifier validates that the information in the environmental statement is correct and credible. This validation creates an

## *Does EMAS participation lead to an ISO 14001-certificate?*

Yes. The EMAS registration attests that the EMAS participant has an environmental management system and complies with the requirements of ISO 14001. This should also be communicated to contracting partners. The environmental verifier is authorized to issue an ISO 14001-Certificate.

**German EMAS Competent Bodies can also issue the Registration Document in English upon request.**

essential condition for EMAS participants to avail themselves of a reduction of fees or administrative requirements in certain areas of the environmental legislation.



Presenting an environmental statement that is checked by an environmental verifier on the one hand necessitates more effort than other systems that do not require reporting. On the other hand, however, it is by making this clear presentation that EMAS participants achieve additional internal and external benefits:

- A reliable data basis is provided for persons in charge;
- Open information helps employees to better identify with their company;
- Customers, banks and insurance companies reward honest partners. Additionally, for public authorities, the statement may provide the basis for the decision on regulatory relief.

# EMAS – Added Value Through Legal Security



Beyond the requirements of ISO 14001, EMAS demands participants to demonstrate compliance with legal requirements. In this way EMAS significantly protects responsible parties in enterprises and facilitates liability security.

Within the EMAS system legal compliance is ensured in several ways: through internal environmental audits within the company, through verification by external verifiers, and finally through the involvement of the responsible environmental authorities before registration.

*Do EMAS participants need to pay the double costs of both the EMAS and ISO 14001 audits?*

EMAS includes all the requirements of ISO 14001. Both systems can be validated and certified by one environmental verifier at the same time. Thus, only limited additional costs, if any, are incurred in doing both.

*In case of upgrading a valid ISO 14001 certification to EMAS, the audit can concentrate on fulfillment of the additional requirements.*

*Should I implement an environmental management system right away or is a simple approach sufficient?*

A simple approach does not always simplify the work. In the short run it may generate bring concrete results, but in order to realize long-term savings and improvements a one-time environmental check is not enough. There are some proven methods, especially for SME's, for achieving a complete EMAS-registration without excessive effort, for example the so-called cluster concept and EMASeasy.

*Also be aware that specific state or federally-designated regulatory relief applies only to EMAS-organisations.*

An environmental verifier shall not sign the declaration on verification and validation activities if he determines that there is evidence of non-compliance with applicable legal environmental requirements



If desired, based upon the environmental report one can issue a sustainability report, which as a result gains additional credibility.

## EMAS – Added Value Through Employee Participation

Providing information to employees and actively involving them in the environmental management system is a driving force for innovation and for the continual improvement of environmental performance. In addition to training measures, employees shall therefore be involved in the process of continual improvement.

Examples of how EMAS organisations use their employees' potential include the establishment of environmental committees, joint working groups related to specific environmental projects and suggestion-book systems. As teams and individuals make efforts to environmental protection, other areas

### *Is EMAS rather than ISO 14001 worth the effort for a small or medium-sized enterprise (SME)?*

When working with small organisations, the environmental verifier takes into account specific characteristics including communication, work allocation, training and documentation. If the organisation has less than 250 employees, upon request the interval between verifications can be extended from three to four years and the yearly validation of the environmental statement to two years, pursuant to the environmental verifier's confirmation.

**Thus for SMEs EMAS might even be more cost-effective.**



of the company may benefit as well – such as occupational health and safety. Involving employees actively in the environmental management system increases their identification with the enterprise and job satisfaction.

Who knows the work flow at the company better than the employees? It is the employee or worker who has the best sense of certain weaknesses and possible practical solutions as well. Their knowledge will benefit the environmental management system and should be used. Furthermore, their involvement leads to raised awareness with respect to environmental and quality aspects.

# Differences between EMAS and ISO

EMAS – Added value included

|   | EMAS   |
|---|--|
| <b>Basis / Status</b>                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• European Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009</li> <li>• Legal basis in the form of an EC-regulation and implementation into German law by Environmental Audit Act (Umweltauditgesetz)</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Scope</b>                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worldwide, organisation- and site-based</li> <li>• Significant environmental impacts and performance are reported on a site-specific basis</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Content</b>                                  | <p>Package, consisting of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental management system (EMS) with internal and external audit</li> <li>• Registration with publicly-accessible national and international registers</li> <li>• Provision of environmental statement</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Focus and Objective</b>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Result- and environmental performance oriented</li> <li>• Objective is continual improvement of environmental performance of organisations using the EMS, with active participation of employees and in dialogue with the public</li> <li>• EMAS is integrated into the Sustainable Consumption and Production and Sustainable Industrial Policy Action Plan of the EU</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Participation</b>                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voluntary</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Requirements</b>                             | <p>In addition to the requirements of ISO 14001 (see right), EMAS requires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An environmental review: initial comprehensive analysis of current status relating to activities, products and services</li> <li>• Proof of compliance with applicable legal requirements and permits</li> <li>• Continual improvement of environmental performance</li> <li>• Employee participation, involvement in the process of continual improvement and information</li> <li>• External communication with the public, interested parties, groups, clients, etc.</li> <li>• Regular environmental reporting (environmental statement)</li> </ul> |
| <b>Scope of inspection</b>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the context of the verification, by means of the inspection of documents and site-visit it is being assessed whether the environmental review, the environmental policy, the EMS, the internal environmental audit, and the implementation of requirements are consistent with the EMAS Regulation.</li> <li>• Within the scope of the validation the Environmental Statement's data and information are being declared as reliable, credible and correct.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Auditor / Verifier</b>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EMAS verifiers are accredited or licensed and supervised by a particular body appointed in each Member State (in Germany the state-approved German Accreditation, Licensing and Supervising Body - DAU)</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Involvement of environmental authorities</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental authorities are contacted by Competent Bodies (in Germany: Chambers of Industry and Commerce, Chambers of Crafts) before registration takes place</li> </ul>  |

## ISO 14001

- International Standard EN ISO 14001:2004
- Commercial standard without legal character

- Worldwide, organisation- based

- EMS with internal and external audit

- Process- and system-oriented
- Objective is continual improvement of the EMS

- Voluntary

Implement, document, put into practice, maintain and constantly improve the EMS:

- Environmental policy
- Planning, that includes identifying significant environmental aspects, legal requirements, defining objectives, targets and programme(s)
- Ensuring implementation and operation of EMS, qualification of responsible persons, internal communication, documentation
- Checking (incl. internal audits)
- Management review

- The text of ISO 14001 itself does not contain rules for certification; there are other standards for auditing and certification
- Through document inspection and site-visits it is controlled whether the EMS of the organisation is consistent with the requirements of ISO 14001

- Certification bodies are accredited through a national Accreditation Body (in Germany the German Accreditation Body - DAkkS)

- Not applicable

## EMAS

|   |  |
|---|--|
|   | <b>EMAS</b>  |
| <b>Environmental Verifiers' Declaration / Certificate</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EMAS verifier signs a “declaration on verification and validation activities” confirming that the organisation fulfills all requirements of the EMAS Regulation</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Registration</b>                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After contacting the environmental authorities, Competent Bodies register the organisation in publically-accessible national and international registers and issue a registration document</li> <li>• Each EMAS organisation receives an individual registration number</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Reporting / External Communication</b>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The organisation issues an environmental statement every three years which is annually updated and validated by the environmental verifier</li> <li>• Small organisations may extend these frequencies to four and two years respectively</li> <li>• The organisation is requested to communicate with the public and other interested parties including local authorities and customers</li> <li>• The standardised EMAS logo presents an attractive communication and marketing tool</li> </ul> |
| <b>Legal Compliance</b>                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisations shall demonstrate that and how they comply with legal requirements and permits</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Employee Participation</b>                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beyond ISO 14001 requirements (competence, training, awareness) EMAS requires active participation and information of employees and workers</li> <li>• Employees must be involved in the process of continual improvement</li> <li>• Employee representatives (such as trade unions) shall be involved upon request</li> <li>• Management must provide feed-back to employees</li> </ul>  |
| <b>External Presentation</b>                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publication and presentation of the environmental statement, validated environmental information and registration document</li> <li>• Organisations may use the EMAS logo with individual register number for marketing and communication purposes, for example internet sites, business papers, email signatures, signs, advertisements and print media</li> <li>• Publically-accessible national and international registers</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Derogation for small organisations</b>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extension of the verification intervals from three to four years</li> <li>• Updated Environmental statement needs to be validated only every two years</li> <li>• The EMAS verifier shall take into account special characteristics of SMEs such as communication, multifunctional staff, education and documentation</li> <li>• EMAS imposes no minimum time upon the verifier for the audit</li> </ul>  |

## ISO 14001

- Certificate is issued by private certification bodies and confirms that the company fulfills all requirements of ISO 14001

- No register

- Reports or external communication is not required
- Only the environmental policy must be made available to the public
- Organisation decides the extent of its external communication
- Public may not receive more information
- No logo

- Applicable legal requirements shall be taken into account

- Involvement of employees whose activities could have a significant impact on the environment by training and ensuring awareness of the EMS
- Those responsible for EMS are to be provided sufficient information

- Certificate, e.g. with logo of the certification body

- No special rules for small organisations
- In general no possibility of skipping yearly audit
- Audit-timetables according to the size and environmental relevance

# For Further Information on EMAS

## Internet

- **EMAS Information Page of the EU Commission**  
[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/index_en.htm)
  - **EMAS Register of the EU**  
[www.emas-register.eu](http://www.emas-register.eu)
  - **EMAS-Environmental Verifiers of the European Union**  
[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/tools/contacts/verifiers\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/tools/contacts/verifiers_en.htm)
  - **International EMAS-Tenders**  
[www.emas.de/aktuelles/ausschreibungen-tenders](http://www.emas.de/aktuelles/ausschreibungen-tenders)
  - **EMAS-Awards**  
[www.emasawards.eu](http://www.emasawards.eu)
  - **EMASeasy – ecomapping**  
[www.emaseasy.eu](http://www.emaseasy.eu)
  - **EMAS Information Page Germany All you want to know about EMAS...**  
[www.emas.de](http://www.emas.de)
  - **German EMAS Advisory Board**  
[www.uga.de](http://www.uga.de)
  - **Environmental Verifiers for Germany**  
[www.dau-bonn-gmbh.de](http://www.dau-bonn-gmbh.de)
  - **EMAS Register for Germany**  
[www.emas-register.de](http://www.emas-register.de)
  - **Collection of Environmental Statements for Germany**  
[www.emas.de/teilnahme/umwelterklaerungen/sammlung](http://www.emas.de/teilnahme/umwelterklaerungen/sammlung)
  - **EMAS in legal requirements (EU, Germany)**  
[www.emas.de/teilnahme/vorteile/emas-foerderung/](http://www.emas.de/teilnahme/vorteile/emas-foerderung/)
  - **EMAS-Newsletter**  
[www.emas.de/aktuelles/newsletter](http://www.emas.de/aktuelles/newsletter)
  - **EMAS-Financial Support**  
[www.emas.de/teilnahme/vorteile/emas-foerderung](http://www.emas.de/teilnahme/vorteile/emas-foerderung)
  - **Overall Financial Support Programs**  
[www.foerderdatenbank.de](http://www.foerderdatenbank.de)
  - **English Publications of the German EMAS Advisory Board**  
[www.uga.de/hilfszeile/english-summary/further-publications/](http://www.uga.de/hilfszeile/english-summary/further-publications/)
- English leaflets and brochures available:**
- **With EMAS to more resource efficiency**
  - **Using the EMAS logo**
  - **EMAS – The Credible Environmental Management System**
  - **The new EMAS III regulation**
  - **The German EMAS Advisory Board**
  - **Fulfilling EN 16001 “Energy Management Systems” with EMAS**
  - **Voices for EMAS (VIPs)**
  - **7 Good Reasons for EMAS**

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