



The German EMAS Advisory Board (UGA)

Committee for supporting and implementation of EMAS in Germany

The European regulation EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme) is implemented in German law through the Environmental Audit Act. This law regulates structure and duties of the German EMAS Advisory Board (Umweltgutachterausschuss, UGA).

Mission statement

Who we are

The German EMAS Advisory Board (UGA) advises the German Federal Ministry for the Environment with regard to the European Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) and gets involved with its proliferation, promotion and further development.

Furthermore the legal obligations cover enacting rules for licensing (accreditation), supervision and examination of environmental verifiers as well as maintaining a register with examiners for the licensing exams of environmental verifiers.

The Board consists of 25 honorary members and their deputies, representing five groups of stakeholders: environmental verifiers, companies, trade unions, environmental NGOs as well as public environmental and economic authorities.



Members of the German EMAS Advisory Board with its current chairman Dr. Michael Schemmer (middle).

How we work

The Board convenes on a regularly basis for plenary meetings which in part are open to the public.

In order to discuss current topics and to prepare decisions effectively, the Board establishes working groups. These working groups meet non-public and invite external experts if necessary.

To achieve its goals the Board works responsibly, is dedicated to the task and respects each member's opinion.

The Board is supported by an office, which is EMAS validated.

What we aim to achieve

Our objectives are:

- To encourage EMAS participants to continuously improve their environmental performance and therefore increasing the level of environmental protection in Germany
- To make the communication of environmental performance of EMAS participants transparent and credible
- To promote EMAS as part of sustainable development
- To ensure the quality of EMAS implementation in Germany
- To motivate organisations, in particular the industrial sector, to participate in EMAS
- To communicate and enhancing EMAS and its opportunities in our spheres of influence and action
- To assist the German Federal Ministry for the Environment with the communication of EMAS-related issues with regard to the European Commission and other institutions

The Board reports at the end of each appointment period about the objectives achieved.



beim Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit

Methods

All members and deputies are suggested by their federal governing bodies or federal and state authorities respectively, and appointed by the German Ministry for the Environment for a period of three years.

The members are not bound by directions.

Each group of stakeholders is represented at the board of directors. The current chairman is Dr. Michael Schemmer, head of Health, Safety, Environment & CSR at Bombardier Transportation. The German EMAS Advisory Board meets several times per year.

Currently there are three working groups dealing with the following topics:

Licensing (accreditation), examination, supervision

- All issues concerning licensing, examination and supervision of environmental verifiers and "holders of certificates of specialised knowledge"
- Revision of guidelines following the Environmental Audit Act (German abbreviation: UAG)

For implementation of the UAG, the following guidelines were issued so far:

- Examiner Guideline (UAG-Prüferrichtlinie)
- Supervision Guideline (UAG-Aufsichtsrichtlinie)
- Competence Guideline (UAG-Fachkunderichtlinie)
- Licensing Procedure Guideline (UAG-Zertifizierungsverfahrensrichtlinie)

And among other publications, a guidance document regarding the functions of environmental verifiers within the EMAS-system.

Marketing, Communication and Support of EMAS

- Incentives, supporting activities, public relation, preparation of information material, analysis of EMAS statistics etc.

Revised EMAS regulation

- Support of the implementation of the revised EMAS regulation (EMAS III), consultation of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety concerning details of the German EMAS implementation

The Committee's Office

The Office of the German EMAS Advisory Board maintains contact to Board members, environmental verifiers, experts and auditors as well as EMAS participants and the public. The Office provides information material about EMAS in general, current statistics, individualised EMAS logos, and maintains the internet sites www.uga.de, www.emas.de and www.wir-fuer-emas.de. The office also provides, among others, information about tenders referring to EMAS and the quarterly published EMAS newsletter.

Since 2009 the UGA - office is an EMAS – registered organisation.



EMAS- Regulation

EMAS is open to all kinds of organisations and is a voluntary environmental management scheme provided by the European Union (Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009).

The EMAS regulation was first adopted in 1993.

EMAS comprises the requirements of the environmental management standard DIN EN ISO 14001 but focuses on tangible continuous improvement of environmental performance. Further priorities are internal (e.g. employee involvement) and external communication (environmental statement), transparency and legal compliance: all EMAS participants have to demonstrate that they are legally compliant.

The fulfilment of all requirements is ensured by a licensed, independent and state-approved verifier.

For more information about verifiers and the German licensing system see: www.dau-bonn-gmbh.de.

The German register currently contains about 1.900 EMAS sites of companies and other organisations. See: www.emas-register.de

For further information in German go to:
www.uga.de

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