



BENEFIT OF EMAS TO ENVIRONMENTAL EFFICIENCY OF COMPANIES AND ORGANISATIONS

**SEIMAS COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION
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Agenda

- What is EMAS
- EMAS and ISO 14001
- EMAS benefits for organisations and authorities

What is EMAS?

Voluntary environmental management instrument designed by the European Union



Aim

Continuous improvements in the environmental performance of companies and other organisations

Means

Management system allowing organisations to measure, evaluate, transparently report and improve environmental performance

Outcomes

Efficiency improvements and better management of environmental issues and credible information on these issues

What are the core elements of EMAS?

EMAS

Premium benchmark for environmental management

Performance

Carrying out actions to achieve environmental policy targets

Credibility

Third party verification by independent environmental verifiers guarantees the value disclosed information

Transparency

Environmental statements provide public information about the environmental performance of the organisation

How Does it work?

EMAS follows a systematic
‘Plan-Do-Check-Act’
approach



Who can participate?

I

Organisations operating in **all economic sectors**

II

Organisations with sites **worldwide***

* Organisations located outside EU, EEA and Accession Countries can register through EMAS global:
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/pdf/factsheet/EMASGlobal.pdf>

6 steps to EMAS registration

- (1) **Conduct an environmental review**
- (2) **Adopt an environmental policy, set objectives, establish action plan and implement it through the management system**
- (3) **Carry out an internal audit of the system**
- (4) **Prepare an environmental statement**
- (5) **Independent verification and validation by an environmental verifier**
- (6) **Registration with the Competent Body and use of EMAS logo**

EMAS and ISO 14001

EMAS includes ISO 14001 but goes beyond by establishing a broader eco-system

EMAS

SECTORAL GUIDANCE AND BENCHMARK

- Sectoral reference documents

MANAGEMENT SYSTEM BASED ON ISO 14001

- Included in the annexes of the EMAS Regulation

REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE PLATFORM

- Public reporting incl. core indicators
- Yearly validation by verifier
- Legal compliance signed-off by public authorities

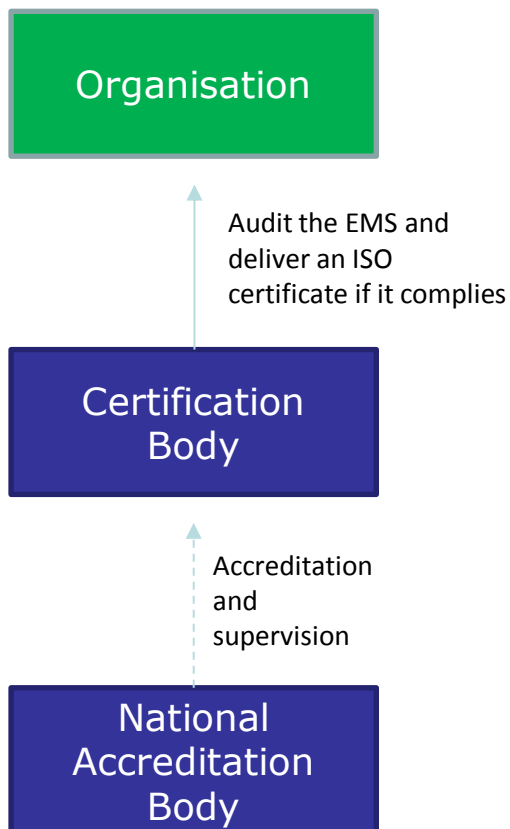
PUBLIC AUTHORITY BASED GOVERNANCE

- National and EU transparent register
- Competent Body appointed by authorities

EMAS specific
features

ISO 14001 based
features

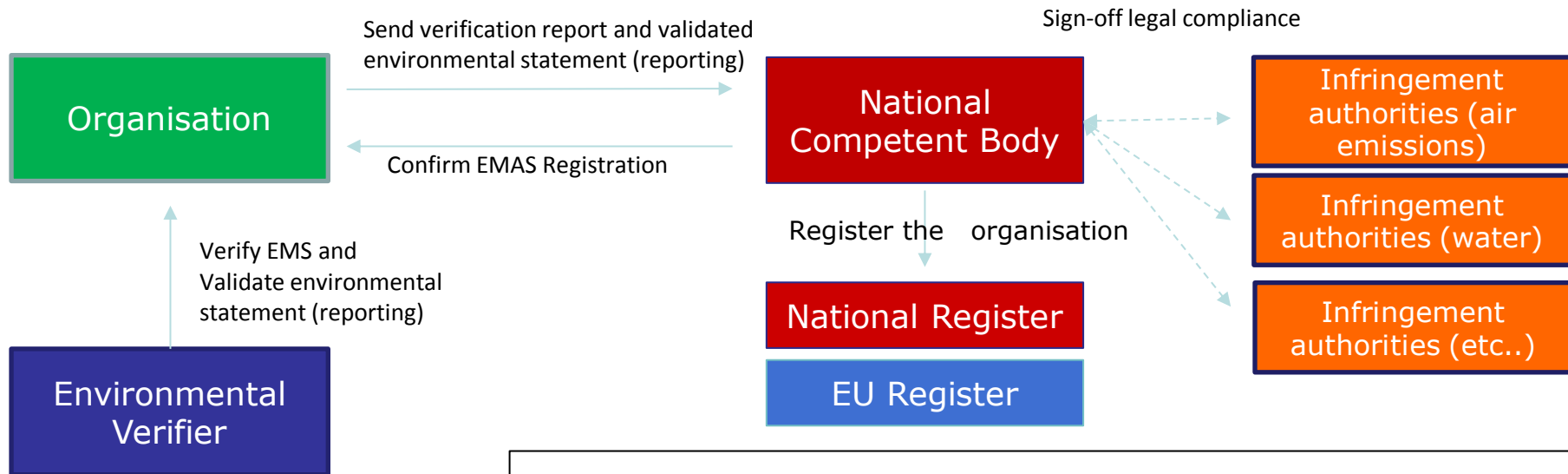
The ISO 14001 governance



Outcomes of the process:

- 1) An Environmental Management System certified as complying with the ISO standard.
- 2) Legal compliance checked by the certifier as part of the EMS certification. If non-compliance detected the organisation shall commit to correct it.

The EMAS specific governance



Outcomes of the process:

- 1) A verified Environmental Management System (the EMS responds to the EMAS Regulation which includes the ISO Standard).
- 2) A validated environmental statement including specific indicators.
- 3) A legal compliance checked by verifier and signed off by competent body in collaboration with infringement authorities if deemed relevant.
- 4) A registration of the organisation in the transparent EMAS register at national and EU level.

EMAS Specificities: transparent reporting (EMAS environmental statement)

Obligation to publish a yearly reporting that includes among other:

- Description of significant environmental aspects
- Performance against legal provision
- Performance against the following indicators:
 1. Energy efficiency
 2. Material efficiency
 3. Water
 4. Waste
 5. GHG and air Emissions
 6. Biodiversity

This reporting shall be validated by the environmental verifier.

EMAS Intrinsic Benefits for organisations

- (1) **Improved environmental performance**
- (2) **Cost reductions:** more efficient resource use (e.g. energy, water)
- (3) **Regulatory compliance and risk minimisation** by assessing operational procedures & legal compliance
- (4) **Image improvement** through EMAS logo use and publication on EMAS Environmental Statement
- (5) **Improved relations with internal stakeholders** – motivation increase
- (6) **Improved relations with external stakeholders:** EMAS registration of a site (private or public) can enhance credibility and transparency
- (7) **Sectoral Reference Documents** to guide best practices implementation

Additional benefits driven by authorities

Authorities can use EMAS to

- **Identify best performers**
- **Reward performance via additional benefits such as:**

- (1) **Deliver regulatory relief** (longer permits, less controls, tax breaks) based on demonstration of legal compliance.
- (2) **Deliver additional benefits to organisation that performs in priority policies** such as air pollution, waste, energy efficiency, etc.
- (3) **Allow organisations to use EMAS as a reporting channel** toward authorities to cover their reporting obligations
- (4) **Recognise EMAS in GPP criteria** based on higher level of legal compliance and transparency on performance

This is a key driver of EMAS success

EMAS Benefits for the authorities

- (1) **Ensure reliable improvement of environmental performance and lower risk of environmental accident.**
- (2) **Save resources of enforcement agencies** by streamlining environmental controls in collaboration with EMAS verifiers and CB's
- (3) **Provide reliable data on organisation environmental performance.**
Can be used to support the achievement of national environmental goals (e.g. GHG Emissions, renewable energy use, waste)
- (4) **Encourage transparent reporting on environmental performance**, in particular in area or sectors where population is looking for reassurance
- (5) **Sectoral Reference Documents available as guidance** to best practice implementation

How to take the best out of EMAS?

To use the full potential of EMAS Authorities could consider the following measures:

Ensure scheme awareness and user friendliness:

- Make sure that the steps to register and the benefits of the scheme are communicated and can be easily found.
- Ensure prompt response from the Competent Body
- Facilitate networks (EMAS Club) and clusters of organisations taking the registration steps together (co-learning, cost decrease).

How to take the best out of EMAS?

Boost scheme efficiency:

- Ensure an efficient communication between the EMAS Competent Body and the control authorities to validate legal compliance.
- Ensure quality of third party verification through effective supervision by accreditation body.
- Digitalise collection of data's to facilitate data analysis.

How to take the best out of EMAS?

Boost regulatory relief potential:

- Identify policies where compliance could be proven through EMAS (e.g. possibly based on specific conditions such as a specific mentions in environmental reporting).
- In accordance with control authorities deliver regulatory relief to organisations demonstrating their compliance through EMAS.
- Some EU legislation such as Industrial Emission Directive make explicit reference to such relief opportunity.

How to take the best out of EMAS?

Reward best performers:

- Deliver additional benefits (economic, fiscal administrative) to EMAS registered organisations, either based on their registration or on a certain level of performance.
- Example of such benefits can be found in the compendium available on the EMAS website.
- Organise EMAS Awards or other forms of recognition.

Measure currently envisaged by the EC:

- *Operational improvement*
 - Facilitate registration of multisite organisation => Revision User Guide
 - More meaningful Environmental Statement => Revision Annex IV
 - Make the system more attractive => New website and digitalisation of the registration process, communication, SME toolkit.
- *Alignment with ISO 14001:2015*
 - Adaptation of Annexes I-III
- *Further development of SRD's and other guidance*
- *Strategic reflection to further increase the added value of the scheme*
 - Fitness check and study ongoing on increasing the EMAS added value

Thank you for your attention