

Lecture Two: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (EMS)

PART 1:
SHORT PRESENTATION:



As competition increases within the expanding global market, environmental laws and regulations are setting new standards for business in every region of the world. But good environmental performance is not just a legal or moral obligation. It also makes good business sense. Reducing pollution means increasing efficiency and wasting fewer resources. Improved health and safety conditions result in a more

productive workforce. Supplying goods and services that respect the environment helps to expand markets and improve sales. In short, companies become more competitive when they practice good environmental management. On the other hand, the risks posed by mismanaging environmental issues are complex and varied. They include the obvious, such as damage to the environment and to the people health with negative consequences for the overall standard of living. They can also include damage to a company's reputation and a resulting loss of confidence among customers, neighbors and shareholders, the loss of market share, and, of course, legal liabilities.

By properly implementing an appropriate environmental management system (EMS), any company, large or small, can ensure that they effectively manage environmental risks while identifying and exploiting the numerous opportunities proper environmental management can bring. Such a systematic approach to environmental management is at the very heart of the ISO 14001 standard. This checklist is intended to allow the students to identify existing operations and management approaches against this standard to determine to which extent the industry is compatible with the international standard of the Environmental Management System.

The Environmental Management System Inspection Checklist has been developed to improve the project's students understanding of the requirements and elements of the Environmental Management System (EMS) that should be fulfilled in any factory in order to protect the surrounding environments and in turn the public and reproductive health of the employees and of the people inhabiting in the surrounding community. This inspection checklist is considered to be extracted from the requirements of ISO 14001:2004. It is designed to allow for a rapid assessment of an organization or facility to determine how closely existing management practices and procedures correspond to the elements of the international standard.

ELEMENTS OF EMS INSPECTION CHECKLIST

If any committed organization started to apply the environmental management system core elements, it will show a good environmental performance through its adoption and implementation of these elements. These valuable elements are already modeled in the ISO 14001:2004. These elements are shown below:

- 1) **Environmental Policy.** It is documented and communicated to employees and made available to public, and which includes a commitment to continual improvement and pollution prevention, regulatory compliance and a framework for setting objectives.
- 2) **Planning.** It covers the identification of the environmental aspects of the organization's activities, identification and access to legal requirements, establishment and documentation of objectives and targets consistent with the policy, and establishment of a program for achieving said targets and objectives