

EMS LINKS AND RESOURCES

www.epa.gov/ems Information about EMS development, EPA's EMS initiatives, guides, case studies, and other EMS resources.

www.ofee.gov The Office of the Federal Environmental Executive promotes sustainable environmental stewardship throughout the federal government. The site provides extensive information and resources on EMSs.

www.fedcenter.gov *FedCenter.gov* is the Federal government's home for comprehensive environmental stewardship and compliance assistance information.

FEDERAL FACILITIES PROGRAM MANAGERS (FFPMs)

www.epa.gov/compliance/contact/fedfac-regional.html

EPA's Regional FFPMs provide compliance and enforcement support and technical assistance to Federal facilities.

EXECUTIVE ORDER 13148

<http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/nepa/regs/eos/eo13148.html>

EO 13148 establishes a framework for integrating environmental considerations into each Federal Agency's mission through a variety of directives and goals, including EMSs.

*

Thousands of governmental organizations have reduced their environmental footprint and improved regulatory compliance through EMSs

Executive Order 13148

Greening the Government Through Leadership in Environmental Management

"...each Federal Agency is responsible for ensuring that all necessary actions are taken to integrate environmental accountability into agency day to day decision making and long-term planning processes, across all Agency missions, activities, and functions."

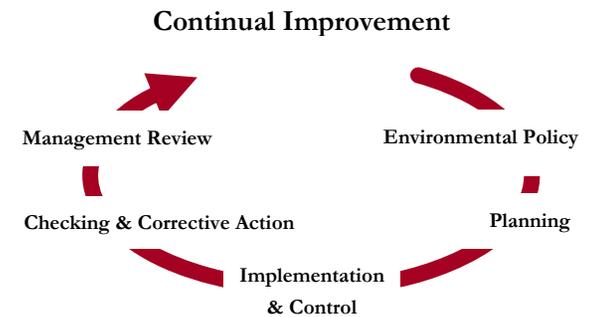


U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
Federal Facilities Enforcement Office
Mail Code 2261A
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460
Phone (202) 564-2510
Fax (202) 501-0069

1/12/06

FEDERAL FACILITIES

ACHIEVING COMPLIANCE THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (EMS)



Federal Facilities Enforcement Office

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND COMPLIANCE

Over the years, the role of Federal facilities in pollution control and prevention has been watched closely by the President, Congress, the public, and the media. Both the Administration and Congress have created and/or modified requirements that clarify that Federal Agencies and facilities must operate in an environmentally sound manner and in compliance with environmental regulations.

This brochure identifies resources that can help your facility achieve and maintain regulatory compliance through implementation of an Environmental Management System (EMS).

WHAT IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM?

An EMS is a formal process and framework used by an organization to manage its environmental affairs and issues, including those where legal requirements exist. The type of EMS currently being implemented by most Federal facilities is generally modeled

using the *Plan, Do, Check, Act* management concept.

An EMS can help a facility in several ways by:

1. Plan- Identifying all activities at a facility that might have an adverse impact on the environment and determining whether those activities are covered by environmental regulations or requirements.

2. Do- Developing plans and controls to ensure that facility personnel have adequate knowledge, training and resources to achieve and maintain regulatory compliance.

3. Check- Ensuring that the compliance status of regulated activities is properly monitored and measured, that excursions from compliance are addressed promptly and effectively, and that plans are developed to prevent future problems.

4. Act- Identifying opportunities for improvement of environmental performance and pollution prevention as well as opportunities to reduce the impact of activities below regulatory thresholds.

WHAT CAN AN EMS DO FOR MY FACILITY?

➤ IMPROVE COMPLIANCE

EMSs can also reduce regulatory violations, help prevent reoccurrences, and expand the corrective action process the facility takes to return to compliance by encouraging the facility to focus on root causes related to non-compliance. Remember, EMSs do not guarantee compliance, rather they put mechanisms in place to make compliance more achievable.

➤ IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

While a properly implemented EMS may improve environmental performance, it has also been proven to enhance performance in mission areas. Further, the detailed process of reviewing environmental issues associated with the organization's activities often identifies redundancies, wasted effort, and coordination problems that lead to inefficiencies.

➤ REDUCE COSTS

EMSs can help to reduce costs resulting from energy use, waste, and non-compliance. In addition, an EMS may help to identify other areas where costs can be reduced through the *Plan, Do, Check, Act* process.

