

Why Environmental Management Systems (EMS) cannot be easily adopted from Small Medium Enterprises

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Abstract

Environmental Management Systems (EMS) can help organizations and especially SMEs to improve their environmental performance by achieving to reduce their impacts from their activities. The adoption of any EMS offers significant benefits to SMEs, but there are difficulties to assess the environmental impact of their activities. In particular, SMEs, are often unaware of their impact on the environment and they do not have the knowledge and the expertise to implement any EMS. The difficulties encountered in adopting and implementing an EMS are primarily due to a lack of environmental education and awareness, as well as, to the absence of regulatory relief measures in National or Local level. In Cyprus, there are approximately 300 more or less organizations or SMEs that applied an EMS like ISO 14001 or EMAS and the main difficulties are related first due to the lack of financial resources from the Component Authorities and then in the fact that there is no any expertise from both management and employees about how an EMS is applied, so they are forced to ask for help from consultants which is an extra charge. The aim of this study is first to identify the difficulties that (SMEs) which are located in Cyprus are facing during the implementation of Environmental Management Systems (EMS), then to indicate a regulatory relief measures and other intensives to convince SMEs to implement and maintain EMAS and final to analyze the benefits through their Environmental Statement for organizations that has already implement EMAS.

Key words: EMAS, ISO 14001, BRAVER,

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