



## Pollution Prevention Services Fact Sheet



### Environmental Management Systems (EMS) Glossary of Terms

#### Compliance Obligations (Requirements)

These are legal requirements that an organization has to comply with and other requirements that an organization has to or chooses to comply with.

#### Continual Improvement

The recurring process of enhancing the environmental management system to achieve improvements in overall environmental performance in line with the organization's environmental policy

#### Corrective Action

An action to eliminate the cause of a nonconformity and to prevent recurrence.

#### Documented Information

Documented information is required to be controlled and maintained by an organization and the medium on which it is contained.

#### Environment

The surroundings in which an organization operates, including air, water, land, natural resources, flora, fauna, humans and their interrelation.

#### Environmental Aspect

An aspect is an element of an organization's activities, products and services that can interact with the environment.

#### Environmental Impact

Any change to the environment, whether adverse or beneficial, wholly or partially resulting from an organization's activities, products or services.

#### Environmental Management System

The part of the overall management system that includes organizational structure, planning activities, responsibilities, practices, procedures, processes and resources for developing, implementing achieving, reviewing and maintaining the environmental policy.

#### Environmental Management System Audit

A systematic, independent, and documented verification process of obtaining and evaluating evidence to objectively determine whether an organization's environmental management system conforms to the environmental management system audit criteria set by the organization, and for communication of the results of this process to management.

#### Environmental Objective

An overall goal, arising from the environmental policy, that an organization sets itself to achieve, and which is quantified where practicable.

#### Environmental Performance

The measurable results of the environmental management system, related to an organizations control of its environmental aspects, based on its environmental policy, objectives and targets.

#### Environmental Policy

Is a statement by the organization of its intentions and principles in relation to its overall environmental performance which provides a framework for action and for the setting of its environmental objectives and targets.

#### Environmental Target

A detailed performance requirement, quantified where practicable, applicable to the organization or parties thereof, that arises from the environmental objectives and that needs to be set and met in order to achieve those objectives.

#### Interested Party

An interested party is an individual or organization that can affect, be affected by, or perceives itself to be affected by a decision or activity.

#### Life Cycle

Consecutive and interlinked stages of a product (or service) system, from raw material acquisition or generation from natural resources to final disposal.

#### Measurement

The process to determine a value.

#### Monitoring

To determine the status of a system, a process or an activity.

#### Nonconformity

Non-fulfilment of a requirement.

#### Organization

An organization is considered a person or group of people that have its own functions with responsibilities, authorities and relationships to achieve its objectives. The concept of organization includes, but is not limited to sole-trader, company, corporation, firm, enterprise, authority, partnership, charity or institution, or part or combination thereof, whether incorporated or not, public or private.

#### Prevention of Pollution

The use of processes, practices, techniques, materials, products, services or energy to avoid, reduce or control (separately or in combination) the creation, emission or discharge of any type of pollutant or waste, in order to reduce adverse environmental impacts.

Prevention of pollution can include source reduction or elimination; process, product or service changes; efficient use of resources; material and energy substitution; reuse; recovery; recycling, reclamation; or treatment.