

COGSBP19

Promote Efficient Water Usage within Sustainable Business Practice



Overview

This standard is about developing policies and guidelines that will improve the efficient use of water for an organisation. It also includes being able to determine levels of water usage, identifying opportunities for improving water usage efficiency, and promoting programmes to improve water usage efficiency within an organisation. The standard promotes the efficient use of water recycling and reuse.

This standard would be appropriate for:

- 1 A manager with responsibility for water usage
- 2 An owner/manager of a business seeking to improve the efficiency of water usage for the organisation
- 3 An individual with a specific brief to reduce water usage
- 4 A consultant providing advice on water usage and efficiency

COGSBP19

Promote Efficient Water Usage within Sustainable Business Practice

Performance criteria

- You must be able to:*
- P1 identify the **legal requirements** that control the extraction, use and discharge of water
 - P2 establish current levels of water usage for **activities** undertaken by the organisation
 - P3 **benchmark** organisational water usage to determine effectiveness
 - P4 specify efficiency targets for each area of water usage
 - P5 identify potential **barriers** that may limit water efficiency
 - P6 advise on the design of processes and products to help minimise or eliminate water usage
 - P7 promote and support the implementation of water efficiency and recycling measures for **activities** undertaken by the organisation
 - P8 define and allocate individual and team roles/responsibilities to support measures to improve water efficiency
 - P9 establish training needs and organise training to those responsible for improving water efficiency
 - P10 develop and implement strategies to overcome **barriers** that limit the impact of water efficiency measures
 - P11 establish methods to evaluate the impact of measures to improve water efficiency
 - P12 support the implementation of monitoring and control procedures in support of water efficiency
 - P13 evaluate impact of measures to improve water efficiency
 - P14 specify environmental impact and **benefits** achieved through efficiency measures

COGSBP19

Promote Efficient Water Usage within Sustainable Business Practice

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the legal requirements that control water extraction, consumption, treatment and discharge
- K2 government targets for sustainable water usage
- K3 the impact of water usage on the environment and sustainability
- K4 how water usage impacts on environmental issues such as climate change
- K5 the benefits of efficient water usage to the organisation
- K6 water usage as part of organisational activities including embedded water
- K7 water supply availability; treatment methods and quality
- K8 how to establish current levels of water usage in respect to all organisational activities
- K9 how to analyse organisational water usage data
- K10 the value of water metering and monitoring
- K11 the principles of benchmarking as a method of identifying opportunities for improving efficient water usage
- K12 the processes used to support water extraction, treatment, recycling, reuse and discharge control
- K13 the factors that limit organisational water recycling and reuse
- K14 water discharge, including treatment methods and quality specifications
- K15 the potential causes/sources of water pollution and its associated implications
- K16 the opportunities available for reducing water usage and improving water efficiency
- K17 the barriers that can limit water efficiency and how these barriers can be overcome
- K18 how process and product design can impact on efficient water usage
- K19 how effective process control and quality assurance can support efficient water usage
- K20 how to assess the impact of water usage on the organisation
- K21 methods of promoting efficient water usage
- K22 how to monitor and control water usage
- K23 how to define and allocate roles/responsibilities for all those involved in improving efficient water usage
- K24 how to establish training needs and organise staff training to support efficient water usage

COGSBP19

Promote Efficient Water Usage within Sustainable Business Practice

K25 how to evaluate the impact of the measures used to improve efficient water usage

COGSBP19

Promote Efficient Water Usage within Sustainable Business Practice

Additional Information

Scope/range related to performance criteria

Barriers can be economic, practical, social or legal compliance

Activities incorporate for example: purchasing, supply, production, storage, packaging, transport and all aspects of business support

Benefits can be social, economic and environmental

Benchmark – a comparative measure of an organisation against industry best practice

Legal requirements: National and European

COGSBP19

Promote Efficient Water Usage within Sustainable Business Practice

Developed by	Cogent
Version number	2
Date approved	October 2011
Indicative review date	October 2014
Validity	Current
Status	Original
Originating organisation	Cogent
Original URN	COGSBP04
Relevant occupations	Manager; Owner/Manager; Consultant; Farmer; Director; Farm Manager; Unit Manager
Suite	Sustainable Business Practice; Agricultural Management
Key words	efficient; water; usage; sustainable; business; practice