

Overview

This standard is about supporting the implementation of an Environmental Management System (EMS) in support of sustainable business practice. requires that an EMS is established and operational within the organisation. An EMS is a comprehensive, systematic, planned and documented approach to managing an organisation's environmental programmes. It allows organisations the opportunity of becoming environmentally pro-active through the implementation of the plan-do-act-check cycle. It requires that actions to improve environmental practice are formally planned, specified, implemented and reviewed as a process of continuous improvement.

The role described by this standard requires that you support the implementation of an established EMS.

the EMS, and gathering data on environmental performance. Data needs to be analysed to determine environmental performance levels and any variations from planned levels of performance. It also requires the ability to correct variations from required performance in accordance with specified contingency procedures.

The ability to communicate with others is an important part of the standard.

This standard would be appropriate for:

Those responsible for supporting the development of sustainable business practice. It is likely to apply to technical staff, those who have responsibility for supporting the implementation of environmental programmes as part of routine work activities and owner managers within SMEs.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

P1 support the implementation of an environmental management system within area of responsibility

P2 inform and encourage others to ensure the effective implementation of the environmental management system in support of sustainable business practice

P3 gather sufficient data to enable an accurate assessment of environmental performance within area of responsibility

P4 monitor environmental performance according to environmental management system requirements

P5 record and analyse data to quantify environmental performance

P6 take action to correct variations from planned environmental performance within limits of responsibility

P7 make recommendations to support improvements to the environmental management and sustainable business practice

P8 report and record the outcomes of monitoring in accordance with organisational quality and statutory requirements

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 what is an environmental management system (EMS)
- K2 the benefits of operating an EMS
- K3 the legislation, industry standards, and voluntary codes that support EMS
- K4 how the economic, social and environmental principles of sustainability can be delivered via the key components of an EMS
- K5 what defines sustainable and unsustainable business practice for the organisation
- K6 the features of the natural environment that the organisation interacts with
- K7 the implementation requirements of the EMS
- K8 the possible environmental damage that could be caused if the organisational EMS fails
- K9 how environmental damage can impact on sustainable business practice
- K10 the legal penalties associated with environmental damage caused through failures in environmental management
- K11 the environmental performance requirements as specified by the EMS
- K12 the benefits that can be gained from implementing an EMS
- K13 the structure and format of an EMS linked to International Standards
- K14 the link between an EMS and an organisation's quality systems
- K15 how an EMS supports the development of environmental best practice
- K16 how to encourage others to effectively implement the EMS
- K17 the data recording and analysis that is used to measure environmental performance
- K18 how to identify and correct variations in environmental performance
- K19 levels of responsibility in relation to implementing and maintaining the EMS

Scope/range

Others include:

- 1 organisational colleagues
- 2 customers
- 3 suppliers

Environmental performance relevant to:

- 1 the supply of resources
- 2 the efficient use of resources
- 3 emissions
- 4 the management of waste
- 5 the supply of products/services

Developed by Cogent

Version Number 2

Date Approved 30 Mar 2020

Indicative Review Date 30 Mar 2026

Validity Current

Status Original

Originating Organisation Cogent

Original URN COGSBP32

Relevant Occupations Director, Environmental Manager, Farm Manager, Farmer,
Technical Staff, Unit manager

Suite Sustainable Business Practice

Keywords implementation; environmental; management; systems;
sustainable; business; practice
