EMAS in Poland

Formal-legal basis of EMAS

In Poland, as a result of access of our country to the European Union, regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council, called EMAS, came into force. In 2004, there was the Regulation No 761/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 March 2001 allowing voluntary participation by organisations in a Community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS), being in force at that time.


At present, binding executive acts to the law of 15th July 2011 on the national eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS) are:

- Regulation of the Minister of Environment of the 23rd March 2012 regarding factors differing the registration fees in the national eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS).
- Regulation of the Minister of Environment of the 1st February 2012 concerning the pattern of the organisation application form to the EMAS register,

According to the legal provisions, the national eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS) is formed by:

1. Minister of Environment,
2. General Director for Environmental Protection,
3. Polish Centre for Accreditation.

The Minister of Environment leads the policy in the scope of the system development, and cooperates with the bodies of the European Union in the mentioned range.
The General Director for Environmental Protection:

- leads register of organizations registered in the system,
- on application of an organization makes its entry to the EMAS register,
- informs relevant bodies about registration of an organization in the EMAS register,
- in appropriate cases refuses entering an organization in the EMAS register, suspends registration of an organization in the EMAS register, or removes an organization from the EMAS register.

Polish Centre for Accreditation leads the accreditation of environmental verifiers.

**Environmental verifiers of EMAS**

Register of EMAS environmental verifiers, accredited on the basis of the Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council and standard PN-EN ISO/IEC 17021 (DAVE-01) includes, at the moment, six entities:

1. TÜV Nord Polska Sp. z o.o., Systems certification body,
2. Military Academy of Technology, Department of Quality Systems and Management,
3. Polish Register of Shipping, Certification Bureau,
4. DQS Polska Sp. z o.o.,
5. Bureau Veritas Certification Polska Sp. z o.o.,
6. Polish Centre for Testing and Certification, Department of Management Systems Certification.

**Procedure of registration in EMAS**

In order to obtain registration in the national eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS), which is led by General Director for Environmental Protection, organization should:

1. carry out an environmental review,
2. develop and implement an effective environmental management system,
3. carry out an internal audit,
4. prepare an environmental statement,
5. undergo verification, carried out by accredited EMAS verifier,
6. submit an application for registration to General Director for Environmental Protection with attached environmental statement, validated by EMAS verifier.

An application form is available on the website of the General Directorate for Environmental Protection (GDOŚ).
Detailed procedure of organisation registration in the national eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS) is presented at the figure below.

**Organization**

1. Carry out an environmental review
2. Implement an effective environmental management system
3. Carry out an internal environmental audit
4. Prepare an environmental statement
5. Submit an application for verification

6. Submit an application for registration
7. Pay a relevant fee

**Accredited environmental verifier**

Evaluation of compliance with requirements concerning:
1. Environmental review
2. Environmental management system
3. Environmental statement
4. Legal provisions

- Nonconformity
- Conformity

- Negative verification
- Non-validated environmental statement
- Positive verification
- Validated environmental statement

**GDOŚ**

Examination of compliance with environmental legislation (consult an enforcement authorities, relevant for the location of environmental use of organisation)

- Nonconformity
- Conformity

- Refusal of registration
- Entry in the register
- Transfer of information to the EU register

**Summary**

In Poland, at the moment, 38 organisations and about 100 sites are registered in accordance with the Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 in Poland.

In Poland, in contrast with the tendency observed in the European Union, the number of organisations registered under eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS) is increasing year by year. Let this tendency last for a long time. *(JB)*
References:

- Matuszak-Flejszman A., Wdrażanie systemu ekozarządzania i audytu (EMAS) w administracji rządowej, Warszawa, czerwiec 2011,
- http://www.gdos.gov.pl/Articles/view/4889,
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