

# FOREIGN EXPERIENCE OF ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT ADAPTATION

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At the present stage of market economy development it is impossible to stay aside economical problems. It is obvious that development and adaptation of traditional approaches for existent and potential ecological economical problems solving and new reserves of society development searching.

In connection with ecological problems extension specialists are more interested in approaches, which allow complex solving of existent problems. Among such mechanisms are ecological management and ecological audit, great hopes are pin on their practical realization.

Ecoaudit as a separate management element developed at the beginning of the 70s abroad. The first companies, which worked out their own ecoaudit programs, were US Steel, Occidental Petroleum (USA) [1]. Nowadays majority of international organizations take part in ecoaudit. European countries experience indicates that environmental protection is not only ecological issue, but economical as well.

Will bring experience over of introduction of the system of ecological management and audit (EMAS) of the German company CWS Lackfabrik

The company currently produces lacquers, powder coatings and synthetic resins. The industrial site stretches over 136,500 m<sup>2</sup>, 70% of which is an open green area, so that is possible to refer to the company as a “green company”. In 1996, following the company’s green aspirations, EMAS registration was achieved.

The protection of the environment receives increasing attention in all activities and from all employees of the company through integrated environmental management. Continuous training of the employees, the organizational integration of environmental protection into the aspirations of the enterprise and constant internal and external audits guarantee that CWS acts according to the guidelines set out by the management. These guidelines are based on 4 principles:

1. Adherence to the valid legislation as well as constant improvement of environmental protection
2. Quality and product responsibility
3. Work and health protection
4. Plant/equipment and transportation safety

The company is continuously improving its daily activities and processes with regard to the environment - in various ways and through different initiatives, such as:

Special training of the company’s workforce to avoid losses and wastes in production (Info-hours)

Regular meetings and discussions on the topic “environment” in order to create an increased sense of responsibility among workers (e.g. in case a new heating system is needed, each worker is trained to use energy from renewable sources as a first option rather than installing a new gas line)

Constant extension of accident prevention measures: in the last years notifiable accidents were reduced by more than 50%

The company gives particular attention to a direct dialogue with customers, neighbors, public authorities, etc.: as a member of the VCI (Chemical Industry Association) it takes part in the world-wide initiative “Responsible Care”

The company’s purchasing department makes sure that its suppliers and contracting parties take into account the company’s desires in regard to environmental protection

The company invests in the most up-to-date equipments in order to assure the costumers pollution free products (e.g. powder coatings and synthetic resins)

At the time of the company’s registration, the EMAS regulation was still relatively new and there was no environmental audit Act in Germany. The main challenge CWS encountered, therefore, was to correctly interpret and implement the EMAS Regulation. Since no one was familiar with the system and no guidelines or examples of environmental statements were available,

the company had to deal with the understanding of the system by itself. Another small difficulty was to provide proof of compliance with the laws by means of the scheme implemented. Nobody, indeed, knew exactly how to deal with this issue and how evidence could be provided. The issue was solved thanks to efficient cooperation between the internal environmental audit team and the competent external authorities.

The company's care and attention for the environment started before it implemented EMAS. However, since 1996, the year of EMAS registration, CWS increased even more its efforts to improve its environmental performance and reduced the impacts of its production on the environment, which can be seen clearly from the fact that the company succeeded in:

1. Reducing emission of harmful solvents (33% less solvent used per t of product: the quantity of solvents since 2005 has been at a maximum of 0.05 t per t of product
2. Reducing of the quantity of energy used by 0.28% from 1.35 MWh in 1994 to 1.07 MWh in 2007 due to improvements of both the insulation system and the efficiency of the machines
3. Reducing the use of water by 1.63% from 2.06 t in 1994 to 0.43 t in 2007
4. Reducing production of dangerous waste from 179.1 t in 2002 to 70.8 t in 2007 [2].

Therefore, thought of environmental protection costs are unprofitable is old-fashioned. European countries experience indicates that enterprises, which adopted ecological management and audit system (CEMA), not only decreased negative influence o environment, but also obtained economical effect. Assignment, per se, is an effective interference, which leads to environmental improvement and economical profits as well.

## References

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