

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
(ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH)
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
(ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY)
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
(ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH)
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Interim Guidance on Environmental Management Systems
and ISO14001

DoD is committed to reducing its impacts on the environment and to reducing the costs of its environmental programs. One way to help achieve these goals is to improve DoD's environmental management systems (EMS). Specifically, we are interested in determining how the International Organization for Standardization's standard, Environmental Management Systems - Specification with Guidance for Use (ISO 14001) can help DoD organizations reduce risks, improve compliance with environmental regulations using pollution prevention wherever possible, enhance stewardship of natural and cultural resources, contain costs, and meet emerging regulatory requirements.

To examine these issues, DoD is conducting a thorough evaluation of ISO 14001. The EMS Committee, composed of representatives of the DoD Components, is conducting the evaluation. The attachment lists DoD Component and Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Environmental Security) representatives on the Committee. To provide a consistent framework for evaluating ISO 14001, I'm issuing the following interim policy:

Third Party Certification and Becoming a Registrar

At this time, DoD does not endorse nor support payment for third-party certification of ISO 14001 at domestic or overseas locations, except where an organization demonstrates clearly to its respective Component Headquarters that the benefits of certification will exceed costs. DoD does not endorse efforts by DoD entities to become accredited registrars who perform third-party certification.

Pilot Studies

DoD Components are encouraged to conduct pilot studies of ISO 14001 implementation. The results of any such studies will be considered prior to developing final policy on using ISO 14001 within DoD. To evaluate the costs and benefits of ISO 14001 implementation in different types of organizations, the EMS Committee is developing pilot study criteria for organizations or installations that desire to conduct pilot studies under the EMS

Committee framework. DoD Components, working with the EMS Committee, will designate the organizations or installations that will participate. Guidance on the pilot study program will be issued in the near future.

Internal Communication

While the pilot studies are in progress, we want to encourage communications in all directions. The EMS Committee members will serve as focal points within their organizations for facilitating the flow of information. Open communications will help produce successful pilots by sharing lessons learned and will help the EMS Committee develop final policy. To facilitate communications, we are establishing a section on the Defense Environmental Network and Information Exchange (DENIX) that is devoted to ISO 14001.

The Regional Environmental Coordinators (RECs) can help the communication process by coordinating DoD EMS interests within regions, as appropriate. Development and implementation of EMS policy, however, will be coordinated through the DoD Components' chain of command.

Communication with ISO

To ensure that the Department's assessment of ISO 14001 and its related ISO 14000 series documents are consistently expressed in the international community, the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Environmental Security) will represent DoD on the US Technical Advisory Group to ISO Technical Committee 207. In addition, the Chairperson of the EMS Committee may designate DoD Component staff to represent DoD at other ISO meetings.

Sherri W. Goodman
Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
(Environmental Security)

Attachment

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