EMS promotion for SMEs (Eco Action 21)

The MOE has formulated Environmental Management Systems (EMS) guidelines for medium and small-sized companies.

To implement Eco Action 21, the MOE formulates guidelines explaining requirements and a checklist.

In addition to controlling and reducing use of greenhouse gases (GHG), waste and water use, and control of chemical substances, green purchasing and reduction in environmental load released from products are promoted. EA21 also allows companies to publicly report environmental results.

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**Current status of Eco action 21 certification and registration**

- **By number of employees**
  - Under 10: 30.6%
  - 11 to 30: 38.0%
  - 31 to 100: 23.2%
  - 101 to 300: 6.4%
  - Over 301: 1.8%

- **By sector**
  - Waste disposal & Recycling: 15.8%
  - Construction & Installation: 25.2%
  - Services: 2.6%
  - Others: 8.1%
  - Printing & Publishing: 1.5%
  - Finance & Insurance: 9.0%
  - Whole sale & Retail: 8.0%
  - Manufacturing: 23.1%
• Narrows down EMS points for easy implementation by small- and mid-sized businesses at a low cost.

• Follows efforts on reducing actual environmental burdens. (also focuses on performance)
  (sets goals for the amount of carbon dioxide emissions, waste product disposal, and total water discharged, keep track of and lower the amount of chemical substances used, green purchasing, and the company’s own products / service)

• Disclosure of annual environmental activity report is required
  Nine items are stipulated for disclosure, including organizational summary, environmental policy, environmental objective, environmental activity plan and its result, as well as an overall assessment by a company representative.
Summary of Eco Action 21

- 13 Requirements and the PDCA Cycle -

Action

Overall assessment and review

- Verify action progress as well as troubleshoot and prevent any problems

Check

Verification of action progress

- Overall assessment and review by the company representative

Plan

Formulation of a plan

- Specify the target organization of the action and activity
- Formulate an environmental policy
- Understand and assess the current environmental burden and progress of initiatives to preserve the environment
- Coordinate with related environmental regulations
- Formulate an environmental objective and environmental activity plan

Implementation of the plan

- Construct an implementation structure
- Conduct education and training
- Implement environmental communication
- Implementation and utilization
- Preparedness and response to environment related emergencies that may arise
- Compile and manage documents and records related to the environment

Review

Overall assessment and review (Action)

Prepare and disclose an environmental activity report

Do

Implement the plan (Do)

Formulate an environmental objective and environmental activity plan

Formulate a plan (Plan)

Conduct education and training

Perform self check on environmental actions taken

Perform self check on environmental burdens incurred

Specify the target organization of the action and activity

Construct an implementation structure

Build, Utilize, and Maintain an Environmental Management System

Eco Action 21 Action Procedures -
Reason for Becoming Involved with Eco Action 21

Based on a survey conducted by the MOE in February 2008 targeting Eco Action 21 certified businesses (approximately 500 companies, with a response rate of about 50%)

- Request of a business partner or parent company
- Bonus points awarded in project bidding with local municipality
- Subsidy from municipality / favorable interest rate from financial institution
- Excellence in industrial waste treatment program (part of the evaluation criteria for excellence)
- Recommended by management
- Recommended by EA21 inspectors
- Other

(number of companies)
Benefits Gained by Participating in Eco Action 21

Based on a survey conducted by the MOE in February 2008 targeting Eco Action 21 certified businesses (approximately 500 companies, with a response rate of about 50%)