



EMS

ARMY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Strengthening Army Readiness Through Mission Focused Environmental Management Systems



The Army Strategy for the Environment represents a major advancement in the Army's appreciation of the relationship between our mission, the community and the environment. The Strategy outlines a plan to foster a long-term sustainability ethic; strengthen operations; meet test, training, and mission requirements; minimize impacts and costs; drive innovation; and enhance the well-being of Soldiers, civilians, families, neighbors, and communities.

As a result, the Army's environmental programs are transforming to meet the Strategy's goals. A key element of this transformation is the implementation of Environmental Management Systems (EMS).

WHAT IS AN EMS?

The goal of the Army EMS is to actively promote mission readiness by continually upgrading environmental performance across Army installations, and by focusing on implementing initiatives that have the greatest potential to enhance the Army mission. EMS integrates environmental stewardship into the overall management of an Army installation and provides a structure for achieving the installation's environmental goals. It addresses the installation's organizational structure, planning activities, responsibilities, practices, procedures, processes, and resources as they relate to the environment.

For more information

U.S. Army Environmental Command
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<http://aec.army.mil>

EMS is based on a proven model consisting of four steps – Plan, Do, Check, Act. This model serves as a framework for installations to clearly identify, prioritize, manage, and check progress toward meeting environmental compliance objectives and targets, minimizing environmental risks, and identifying areas for continual improvement. The Army intends for its appropriate installations to have an EMS in place by Dec. 31, 2005, and for those installations to conform to ISO 14001 by Sept. 30, 2009.

WHAT IS ISO 14001?

The International Organization for Standardization developed the ISO 14001 standard to provide a set of internationally recognized criteria for EMS. The Army adopted the ISO 14001 model because it is a global standard that will help the Army meet its global mission. It will also allow the Army to align with industry best practices. ISO 14001 will provide a common framework by which all Army programs can be structured. Its standardized elements will aid in integration as the Army transforms and realigns its installations.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF EMS?

EMS makes systematic management of environmental activities a tool for mission accomplishment. EMS can enhance mission performance by:

- Aligning mission and environmental goals
- Facilitating communication of the true “Cost to Mission” of environmental issues
- Prioritizing limited resources around mitigating risks to mission
- Providing clear objectives based on installation defined factors such as mission impact and community concern – not just compliance
- Prioritizing program resources around risks that impact the sustainability of the installation
- Facilitating communication with stakeholders outside the fence line and building stronger relationships with the community and regulators
- Eliminating unnecessary compliance burdens, increasing operational flexibility and reducing total ownership costs through participation in various EMS incentives programs.

HOW CAN INSTALLATIONS ENSURE IMPLEMENTATION SUCCESS?

EMS must take all activities into account and encompass the entire installation to be mission focused and effective. Installations are encouraged to form a cross-functional team to lead EMS implementation. Team membership should be broad and inclusive of functional experts from

across the installation to ensure all operations are considered during implementation. Installations should focus their EMS on mitigating risks to mission and community activities, actively engaging installation leadership in the process, and taking advantage of resources and guidance made available through the U.S. Army Environmental Command (USAEC).

USAEC has prepared the following documents to assist commanders and other installation personnel understand and implement their EMS:

- U.S. Army Environmental Management System Commander’s Guide, June 2003
- U.S. Army Environmental Management System Implementer’s Guide, Version 3.0, Oct. 2005

Both documents can be accessed at:

<http://www.sustainability.army.mil>.

