

EMS Auditors

Skills and Knowledge Requirements

1 Understanding Environmental Management Systems

Understanding of environmental management system requirements and principles, and their application:

- environmental management system principles and their application
- requirements of the environmental management system standard being audited against

2 Understanding Legal and Other Requirements

Appreciation of legal and other requirements relevant to environment sufficient to enable the auditor to evaluate the environmental management system:

- legal and other requirements dealing with the environment
- process-specific legal and other requirements dealing with environmental protection, pollution prevention and resource efficiency
- legal and other requirements dealing with labelling, use of hazardous substances, product life cycle, product stewardship
- industry and trade association best practices documents
- guidance from regulatory bodies
- customer and interested parties agreements (e.g. community, non-governmental organizations, local authorities)

3 Understanding Environmental Techniques

Understanding of environmental techniques sufficient to enable the auditor to examine the management system and generate appropriate audit findings and conclusions. Examples include:

- risk techniques for determining risk (e.g. environmental aspects/impact evaluation, including methods for evaluating significance)
- life cycle assessment
- environmental performance evaluation
- pollution control and sustainability practices (e.g. best available technique assessment for pollution control or energy efficiency)

4 Body of Knowledge

Understanding of information (e.g. body of knowledge) that is fundamental to the processes, science and technology underlying environment sufficient to enable the auditor to evaluate management system elements associated with the discipline:

- environmental terminology
- source reduction, waste minimization and sustainability (e.g. carbon footprint and greenhouse gas emissions)
- measurement science and monitoring techniques
- statistics
- impact of human activities on the environment, including nuisance, cultural heritage, community impacts
- interaction of ecosystems and biodiversity
- environmental media (e.g. air, water, land)
- management of natural resources (e.g. fossil fuels, water, flora and fauna)
- general measures of environmental protection

5 Understanding of Business Context

Understanding of environmental knowledge related to the particular resources, sector, operation, or workplace being audited sufficient for the auditor to evaluate the auditee's activities, functions, processes, products and services:

- fundamental concepts and principals of operations of the sector
- sector-specific processes and practices
- interested parties' expectations (e.g. expectations of the surrounding community)
- environmental design
- key characteristics of processes and products, including services