

Glossary

Environmental Management System: An Environmental Management System, often called an EMS, is a set of internal rules which are defined by a collection of policies, processes, procedures and records. This system defines how a company will identify, monitor and control the interactions that it has with the environment around it.

Environmental Policy: The Environmental Policy is the overall goals, intentions and direction that the management of an organization has identified for the environmental management system.

Risk: The result of uncertainty, or the chance that an event will occur. Assessing what to do with a risk involves predicting the resulting outcome of the potential event and deciding what to do about it should it occur. In terms of environmental management this could mean assessing the chance that you will have a chemical spill, assessing how environmentally damaging the spill could be (this could depend on the chemical involved), and having a plan to deal with it should it happen.

Environmental Performance: The environmental performance is the measurable results of the management of the environmental aspects in the environmental management system. For example, if you are measuring your air emissions from a smoke stack, with a set expected level of chemical contaminants, the measured results can be acceptable to the limits or unacceptable.

Recycling

The process of re-using material for the production of new goods or services on the same quality level. If the quality of the goods and services produced with recycled material is lower, then the process is known as downcycling.