

Differences between EMAS and ISO

EMAS – Added value included

	EMAS
Basis / Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 • Legal basis in the form of an EC-regulation and implementation into German law by Environmental Audit Act (Umweltauditgesetz)
Scope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worldwide, organisation- and site-based • Significant environmental impacts and performance are reported on a site-specific basis
Content	<p>Package, consisting of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental management system (EMS) with internal and external audit • Registration with publicly-accessible national and international registers • Provision of environmental statement
Focus and Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Result- and environmental performance oriented • Objective is continual improvement of environmental performance of organisations using the EMS, with active participation of employees and in dialogue with the public • EMAS is integrated into the Sustainable Consumption and Production and Sustainable Industrial Policy Action Plan of the EU
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary
Requirements	<p>In addition to the requirements of ISO 14001 (see right), EMAS requires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An environmental review: initial comprehensive analysis of current status relating to activities, products and services • Proof of compliance with applicable legal requirements and permits • Continual improvement of environmental performance • Employee participation, involvement in the process of continual improvement and information • External communication with the public, interested parties, groups, clients, etc. • Regular environmental reporting (environmental statement)
Scope of inspection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the context of the verification, by means of the inspection of documents and site-visit it is being assessed whether the environmental review, the environmental policy, the EMS, the internal environmental audit, and the implementation of requirements are consistent with the EMAS Regulation. • Within the scope of the validation the Environmental Statement's data and information are being declared as reliable, credible and correct.
Auditor / Verifier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMAS verifiers are accredited or licensed and supervised by a particular body appointed in each Member State (in Germany the state-approved German Accreditation, Licensing and Supervising Body - DAU)
Involvement of environmental authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental authorities are contacted by Competent Bodies (in Germany: Chambers of Industry and Commerce, Chambers of Crafts) before registration takes place

ISO 14001

- International Standard EN ISO 14001:2004
- Commercial standard without legal character

- Worldwide, organisation- based

- EMS with internal and external audit

- Process- and system-oriented
- Objective is continual improvement of the EMS

- Voluntary

Implement, document, put into practice, maintain and constantly improve the EMS:

- Environmental policy
- Planning, that includes identifying significant environmental aspects, legal requirements, defining objectives, targets and programme(s)
- Ensuring implementation and operation of EMS, qualification of responsible persons, internal communication, documentation
- Checking (incl. internal audits)
- Management review

- The text of ISO 14001 itself does not contain rules for certification; there are other standards for auditing and certification
- Through document inspection and site-visits it is controlled whether the EMS of the organisation is consistent with the requirements of ISO 14001

- Certification bodies are accredited through a national Accreditation Body (in Germany the German Accreditation Body - DAkkS)

- Not applicable

EMAS

Environmental Verifiers' Declaration / Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EMAS verifier signs a “declaration on verification and validation activities” confirming that the organisation fulfills all requirements of the EMAS Regulation
Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After contacting the environmental authorities, Competent Bodies register the organisation in publically-accessible national and international registers and issue a registration document Each EMAS organisation receives an individual registration number
Reporting / External Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The organisation issues an environmental statement every three years which is annually updated and validated by the environmental verifier Small organisations may extend these frequencies to four and two years respectively The organisation is requested to communicate with the public and other interested parties including local authorities and customers The standardised EMAS logo presents an attractive communication and marketing tool
Legal Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organisations shall demonstrate that and how they comply with legal requirements and permits
Employee Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beyond ISO 14001 requirements (competence, training, awareness) EMAS requires active participation and information of employees and workers Employees must be involved in the process of continual improvement Employee representatives (such as trade unions) shall be involved upon request Management must provide feed-back to employees
External Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication and presentation of the environmental statement, validated environmental information and registration document Organisations may use the EMAS logo with individual register number for marketing and communication purposes, for example internet sites, business papers, email signatures, signs, advertisements and print media Publically-accessible national and international registers
Derogation for small organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extension of the verification intervals from three to four years Updated Environmental statement needs to be validated only every two years The EMAS verifier shall take into account special characteristics of SMEs such as communication, multifunctional staff, education and documentation EMAS imposes no minimum time upon the verifier for the audit

ISO 14001

- Certificate is issued by private certification bodies and confirms that the company fulfills all requirements of ISO 14001

- No register

- Reports or external communication is not required
- Only the environmental policy must be made available to the public
- Organisation decides the extent of its external communication
- Public may not receive more information
- No logo

- Applicable legal requirements shall be taken into account

- Involvement of employees whose activities could have a significant impact on the environment by training and ensuring awareness of the EMS
- Those responsible for EMS are to be provided sufficient information

- Certificate, e.g. with logo of the certification body

- No special rules for small organisations
- In general no possibility of skipping yearly audit
- Audit-timetables according to the size and environmental relevance