

FACT SHEET

EMS Series, No 2

August 2001

Code of Environmental Management Principles

Overview

The *Code of Environmental Management Principles for Federal Agencies* (CEMP) was developed by the Environmental Protection Agency to assist in the establishment of environmental management initiatives for identifying environmental deficiencies, implementing corrective actions, and continuously planning, reviewing, and improving measures to achieve environmental excellence. The CEMP, published in the 16 October 1996, Federal Register, Volume 61, Page 54062 (61 FR 54062), is a set of five voluntary environmental management principles. However, Executive Order 13148, *Greening the Government through Leadership in Environmental Management*, 22 April 2000, specifies the assessment and implementation of an [Environmental Management System \(EMS\)](#) based on the CEMP or other appropriate framework.

An EMS is a systematic approach to managing, reviewing, and improving environmental activities, encompassing sound planning to meet established environmental policies and environmental protection, pollution reduction, and conservation goals.

CEMP Principles

The environmental management principles set forth in the CEMP assist federal agencies in developing and implementing an EMS framework or improving an existing system. An agency or organization may find many of these principles already exist but are not integrated into a formal management system. An “agency” as used within the CEMP, represents individual Federal Government entities, such as the Department of Defense (DoD).

Principle 1: Management Commitment

This principle emphasizes the significance of management in establishing environmental management policies and integrating these policies throughout an agency’s operations. Through management support, an agency ensures commitment and integration for the EMS, thus improving its environmental performance. In addition, the incorporation of environmental stewardship and sustainable development concepts increase awareness of environmental issues and promotes environmentally friendly practices.

Principle 2: Compliance Assurance & Pollution Prevention

This principle seeks to improve environmental performance by identifying and addressing regulatory compliance problems, the implementation of emergency planning and response, and the use of pollution prevention measures to correct environmental deficiencies. Furthermore, agencies are encouraged to “go beyond” compliance by establishing additional goals and implementing natural resource conservation measures.

Principle 3: Enabling Systems

This principle aims to assist development of implementation measures necessary to ensure personnel perform duties in a manner consistent with regulatory requirements, environmental policies, and the agency’s mission. Personnel should be trained to carry out the environmental responsibilities associated with their duties. In addition, the agency should provide procedures and standards, as well as an information management system for environmental issues.

Principle 4: Performance & Accountability

This principle aims to structure and delegate environmental responsibilities and accountability through personnel performance standards to achieve the full

Principles

- ↳ Management Commitment
- ↳ Compliance Assurance & Pollution Prevention
- ↳ Enabling Systems
- ↳ Performance & Accountability
- ↳ Measure & Improvement



PROACT

An Environmental Resource sponsored by HQ Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence



benefits of an EMS. Personnel should be delegated authority to address environmental performance and the agency should develop measures to hold personnel accountable for their environmental performance, including recognition for outstanding performance.

Principle 5: Measurement & Improvement

This principle emphasizes the importance of continually assessing progress toward meeting established environmental goals and then using the results of the assessment to further improve environmental performance. An agency should evaluate its performance in meeting regulatory requirements and goals to identify areas that still require assistance, and implement measure to ensure continuous environmental improvement.

The CEMP was designed to provide agencies flexibility; therefore, there are many possible approaches to implementing these principles at an agency.

Alternative System

The DoD has fully endorsed the CEMP on an agency-wide basis; however, the CEMP allows agencies the option of using an alternative EMS. Therefore, DoD is also evaluating an alternative

environmental management system, the [International Organizations for Standards \(ISO\) 14001](#).

ISO 14001 EMS Elements

- ↳ Policy Statement
- ↳ Planning
- ↳ Implementation & Operation
- ↳ Checking & Corrective Action
- ↳ Management Review

For Additional Information

Contact Mr. Scott Newquist, Environmental Quality Directorate, Headquarters Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, DSN 240-3517; or PRO-ACT at DSN 240-4240.

Web Site

- ☞ *Implementation Guide for the CEMP*, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, EPA, <http://es.epa.gov/oeca/cemp/cemp toc.html>.
- ☞ *Environmental Management Systems*, DENIX, <http://www.denix.osd.mil/denix/DOD/Library/EMS/ems.html>.

Fact sheets are produced by PROACT, a service of the Environmental Quality Directorate, Headquarters Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence (HQ AFCEE/EQ), Brooks AFB and are intended as general guidance to inform Air Force personnel. This fact sheet does not, nor is intended to, specify all federal, state, Department of Defense, or Air Force requirements. Visit PROACT on the web at <http://www.afcee.brooks.af.mil/pro-act> or contact us at DSN 240-4215, (800) 233-4356, or by e-mail at pro-act@hqafcee.brooks.af.mil.

