



U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
Fact Sheet

Executive Order 13423 and Environmental Management Systems

I. BACKGROUND: Executive Order (E.O.) 13423 of January 24, 2007, sets broad goals to strengthen environmental, energy, and transportation management across Federal agencies. It combines multiple previously issued E.O.'s into one and requires Federal agencies to implement environmental management systems (EMS) at all appropriate organizational levels. The E.O. requires the use of EMS as the primary management approach for addressing environmental aspects of internal agency operations and activities, including energy and transportation functions.

What is an EMS? An EMS is a way of continually improving environmental performance by systematically managing an organization's business practices (activities, products, and services) that potentially impact the environment.

- It looks at an organization's structure, planning activities, roles and responsibilities, work practices, and procedures that support an organization's environmental commitment.
- It consolidates various stovepiped environmental initiatives and integrates them.

Most EMS's are built on the "Plan, Do, Check, Act" model. This model results in continual improvement based upon:

- Plan - Planning, including identifying environmental aspects (any element of an organization's activities or services which can interact with the environment) and establishing goals. EMSs incorporate an organization's structure; mission, and work practices that support an organization's environmental commitment.
- Do - Implementing, including training and operational controls.
- Check - Checking, including monitoring and corrective action.
- Act - Reviewing, including progress reviews and acting to make changes to the EMS.

Attributes of an EMS:

- Demonstrates commitment from top level management.
- Customized and owned by the organization – this EMS is your EMS.
- Works with other management systems.
- Designed to fit in an organization's mission and culture.

EMS Benefits:

- Improved environmental performance and compliance and enhanced business practices.
- Reduced risks to natural resources.
- Resource conservation and prevention of pollution through improved planning.
- Enhanced communication and image with the public, regulators, and legislators.
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II. WHAT IS REQUIRED?

- Implement EMS at all appropriate organizational levels (e.g., headquarters, regions, programs, state offices, and field activities).
 - Establish policy.

- Determine which business practices have potential to impact the environment.
- Identify goals appropriate to the organization (e.g., conserve water).
- Choose measurable targets (e.g., reduce water consumption intensity by 2% annually through 2015).
- Incorporate collection, analysis, and reporting of information to measure performance of agency protocols.
- Review and update EMS annually; and report compliance with the PMA, via the OMB Environmental Stewardship Scorecard.
- EMS implementation is required by EO 13423 and it is in the DOI Fiscal Year 2007-2012 Strategic Plan.

III. WHAT ARE DOI AND THE BUREAUS' CURRENTLY DOING?

- A DOI-wide policy on EMS (518 DM 4) was issued in October 2002.
- A Secretarial Memorandum to all employees on "Improving Environmental Compliance and Performance through Environmental Management Systems" was issued in August 2003.
- An EMS Council was established and meets regularly to assist in EMS implementation. The Council is chaired by the Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance and is composed of at least one representative from each Bureau or Office.
- DOI works closely with the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and participates in the E.O. 13423 Interagency Working Group
- Many Bureaus and Offices have initiated EMS at the facility-level.
- Each Bureau and Office report quarterly on their EMS status through the DOI Internal Environmental Stewardship Scorecard as required by DOI.

IV. WHERE DOI AND BUREAUS' ARE GOING?

- The Secretary recently signed a memorandum that commits DOI Bureaus and Offices to comply with all of the provisions of Executive Order 13423, and the increased implementation of EMS.
- A revised DOI Manual Chapter will be written along with implementation guidance.
- EMS awareness training across DOI Bureaus and Offices will be done.

V. WHAT SENIOR EXECUTIVES CAN DO?

- Communicate to your managers a commitment to comply with E.O. 13423, along with EMS implementation across Bureau and Office organizations.
- EMS awareness training will be needed at all levels. This begins with you. Briefings may be arranged with your environmental staff or through the Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance.
- Support EMS management initiatives at all organizational levels.
- Request EMS implementation status updates from your managers.

VI. FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact: Dr. Willie R. Taylor, Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance, (202) 208-3891.

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