

NAS NORTH ISLAND - NAVY REGION SOUTHWEST NAVY ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

COMPLIANCE

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION – ISO 14000

LEAD ACTIVITY

Naval Air Depot (NADEP) North Island

STATUS

Complete

MISSION

Provide a generic series of standards for environmental work.

REQUIREMENT

Executive Order 13148, "Greening the Government through Leadership in Environmental Management," provides new waste reduction goals and adds new environmental requirements for Federal Facilities. One of these new requirements is to conduct an environmental management self-assessment within 18 months of issuance (by October 2001) and implement an Environmental Management System (EMS) by December 31 2005.



DESCRIPTION

As part of a Department of Defense (DoD) pilot study for the utility of ISO 14001 EMS, NAVAL AIR DEPOT (NADEP), North Island is the first DoD facility to become certified to the ISO 14001 standard. The NADEP Environmental Program Office began developing the EMS in January 1998, and by May 1999, an EMS was implemented in four of twelve of its functional areas. The certification was achieved when its EMS

successfully passed a rigorous and detailed audit conducted by an independent third-party registrar. The management system implemented at NADEP is truly unique and has received many positive comments from experienced environmental management system professionals in both the private and public sector, and we have been encouraged to share the results with other public and DoD organizations.

The NADEP's EMS employs a "systems approach" to continual improvement for environmental performance (including pollution prevention). It can be utilized in the same manner for continual improvement for safety, quality, and any other area deemed critical by the organization. This approach implemented at NADEP above all is cost effective and utilizes existing management procedures to the extent possible, thus minimizing any new effort required by the organization. By utilizing existing management processes, the EMS effort is mostly used to identify and implement "improvements" which contribute to making the NADEP operation more cost effective in accomplishing the primary mission of providing quality aircraft for the navy.

The EMS approach implemented basically references the environmental compliance and other required EMS functions that are already being completed at the NADEP. The shop and shop support areas (organizational units) are held accountable for environmental compliance and other plant functions (i.e. process specifications etc.) relevant to an EMS. To ensure that the shop and shop support areas are in compliance with their requirements (i.e. environmental compliance, maintenance requirements, utilizing the current instructions to perform the work in their areas), internal audits (inspections) are performed on a scheduled basis (once per quarter) by a trained team of command employees. If a deficiency is identified, the area being inspected is to determine the root cause of the deficiency and provides a corrective action plan. Because the shop and shop support areas provide a regularly scheduled time to meet by EMS command policy, this self-inspection process has improved the existing environmental compliance program and other areas. By referencing these traditional functions like environmental compliance to the EMS, the effort to maintain the EMS is minimized, while maximizing the effort to identify and implement improvements.

In 1994, ISO published voluntary environmental standards (ISO 14000) that are intended to provide requirements for environmental management that protect the public health and the environment while reducing regulatory burdens. The ISO 14001 standard focuses on the specifications and requirements for developing an EMS. The ISO 14001 standard is organized into five components: environmental policy, planning, implementation and operation, checking and corrective action, and management review. NADEP is currently implementing the ISO 14001 EMS Standard in three phases. ISO 14001 is a systems standard that applies to the management process. The standard does not mandate specific methods, practices, or techniques; rather it emphasizes principles, goals, and objectives that focus on continuous process improvements that benefit the environment. ISO 14001 provides a simple, understandable system to ensure that an organization is able to achieve its commitments to environmental responsibility.

Naval Air Station (NAS) North Island has trained its staff on ISO 14001 and is evaluating potential implementation of the standard under the regionalized environmental program management.

BENEFITS

- Places the focus on environmental "improvements."
- The shop and other functional areas play a major role in a "team player" approach which creates a synergy of ideas for improvements.
- Utilization of the internal audit (self-inspection) allows the EMS to reference the environmental compliance and other programs and greatly minimizes the required effort to sustain an EMS.
- The customized EMS Document Control and Records System (DCRS), in Lotus Notes, allows all (from the shop level to upper management) to easily interact with proposed improvements for the Plan, Do, Check and Act functions.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS/CURRENT STATUS

Date	Activity
MAY 1997	In-house gap analysis for NADEP Environmental Program completed
SEP 1997	NADEP staff orientation completed; Consultant interviews with NADEP Environmental Program personnel completed
SEP 1997	NADEP tasked ISO consultant to review their Environmental Planning and Compliance Program
NOV 1997	Alternatives to address the ISO 14001 standards for regionalized environmental program management evaluated
DEC 1997	NAS North Island 1-day ISO 14001 workshop for environmental staff completed; NADEP Environmental Program preparations completed, including Executive Steering Committee approval
JAN 1998	NADEP joined DoD Pilot Program for ISO 14001
JUL 1998	Phase one ISO 14001 implementation initiated at NAS North Island
APR 1999	1 st Phase Registration Audit (4 Organizational Units)
MAY 1999	Registration Conferred
JAN 2000	DoD Pilot Study Concludes
MAY 2000	2 nd Phase Registration (Industrial Planning Office)
OCT 2000	3 rd Phase Registration (Aircraft Support Services and portions of Components)

FUTURE PLAN OF ACTION & MILESTONES

Not Applicable

COLLABORATION/TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

This effort is part of a DoD pilot project for the assessment of ISO 14001 as an appropriate EMS for DoD.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- MCG Associates. ISO 14000 Workshop, "What ISO 14000 Brings to the Table." December 10, 1996.
- International Organization for Standardization, ISO 14000 Standards. 1995.

RELATED GOVERNMENT INTERNET SITES

[ISO On-line](#)

[EPA ISO 14000 References](#)

RELATED NAVY GUIDEBOOK REQUIREMENTS

- 00999 General Program Support

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