



5th Thematic Workshop

Environmental inspections and the role of EMAS verifier



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ESTONIA



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Summary

- Is EMAS part of the national legislation regarding environmental inspections?
Is there a difference to the IED (industrial emission directive)?
- How does the practical implementation of inspections work
- The number of companies affected by environmental inspections and the number of EMAS companies affected by environmental inspections
- What is the difference between EMAS organizations and Non-EMAS organizations regarding environmental inspections? (in theory and in practice)
- What experiences do EMAS organizations have regarding environmental inspections?
- What is the current role of the EMAS verifier regarding environmental inspections?

Is EMAS part of the national legislation regarding environmental inspections? Is there a difference to the IED (industrial emission directive)?

- In legislation it is RECOMMENDED to implement environmental management system (any kind, not necessarily standardised)
- EMAS should influence the frequency of inspections

How does the practical implementation of inspections work?

- Each inspection includes risk assessment, which is carried out after all environmental reports are submitted.
- Risk assessment includes recommendations and dictates what has to be done in case of non-compliances are identified.
- Next inspection (in 1, 2 or 3 years) is determined based on the results of the risk assessment and whether non-compliances have occurred
- IRAM system is used. It is checked whether EMS is implemented or not.
EMAS -1, ISO – 0, no EMS - 1

The number of companies affected by environmental inspections and the number of EMAS companies affected by environmental inspections

- Environmental inspection only check the companies installations) with integrated environmental permit
- Currently there are 245 installations with integrated environmental permit
- 245 vs 1 EMAS



What is the difference between EMAS organizations and Non-EMAS organizations regarding environmental inspections? (in theory and in practice)

- In theory, the EMAS organisations could be inspected less often.
- In reality not difference
- Risk assessment gives more points in case of EMAS so the result should be more favorable for the company. In reality there is no real effect
- Iru incineration plant is one of a kind in Estonia and cannot be compared with any other installation
- Eesti Energia would like to have only one check/audit annually

What experiences do EMAS organizations have regarding environmental inspections?

- There are no real experiences in Estonia
- EMAS environmental statement is not used
- Information is obtained from different environmental registers (waste register, water register, air pollution infosystem)
- In the future all these registers will be combined in one big environmental register KOTKAS (EAGLE).
- KOTKAS already exists right now but only as infosystem for environmental permits
- There is a plan to combine KOTKAS and EMAS environmental statement

What is the current role of the EMAS verifier regarding environmental inspections?

- Currently no role, separate audits.
- In perfect situation it should be checked whether the recommendations given by the auditor are taken into account and improvements made accordingly.
- In case of EMAS there is an three year audit plan. In case of inspections, it is determined during the risk assessment when the next inspection is made (in 1, 2 or 3 years) and in which semester.



Thank you !!!

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let's do it!

