


The Importance of an Environmental Management System

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*Experience is that marvelous
thing that enables you to
recognize a mistake when
you make it again.*

[Franklin P. Jones](#)

Introduction

- * Nearly every business has some sort of environmental compliance requirement
- * Regulatory agencies do not accept ignorance of the law as an excuse
- * Compliance is always more cost-effective than non-compliance



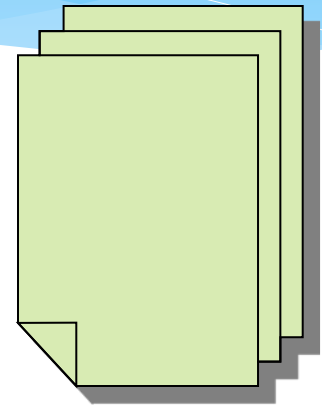
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- * Which regulations apply?
 - * Federal
 - * State
 - * City/County
- * USEPA will delegate authority to state and/or City and County agencies
- * Regulations include requirements as well as enforcement authority
- * What regulations apply to which operations? Overlapping regulations?



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- * Clean Water Act (CWA)
 - * Oil Pollution Act
- * Clean Air Act (CAA)
- * Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)
- * Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)
- * Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA)
- * Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)
- * Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
- * Department of Transportation (DOT)



Environmental Management

- * Under those acts:

- * Permits
- * Plans
- * Training
- * Inspections
- * Recordkeeping
- * Reporting
- * Enforcement



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* Example Violations:

- * CWA: Meat producer fined **\$2 million** for exceeding discharge permit
- * CAA: Owner and operator of trucking company sentenced to **two months in prison**, followed by four months of home confinement for knowingly concealing and failing to file and maintain a document required by the Clean Air Act and by negligently discharging diesel fuel in violation of the Clean Water Act. The corporation was sentenced to pay a civil penalty of **\$35,000 plus \$39,000** in restitution and fines to the State of Missouri.



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* Example Violations

- * **RCRA:** Medical Center agrees to pay a penalty of **\$83,488** to the U.S. in settlement of the government's claims.
- * The hospital has also agreed to inventory all of the solid waste streams generated by its facility and provide E.P.A. with documentation of that inventory. The hospital also will make quarterly reports to E.P.A. for a period of one year, using photographs and documentation to show that its hazardous wastes are being properly identified, stored and disposed.
- * During a January 2007 inspection, E.P.A. found that the hospital had:
 - * Failed to conduct and document weekly inspections of a hazardous waste container storage area.
 - * Failed to properly mark hazardous waste accumulation containers.
 - * Improperly treated paint and solvent hazardous wastes by allowing opened containers and solvent-soaked rags to evaporate prior to disposal, all without a necessary permit.
 - * Improperly disposed of solvent-soaked rags in general trash.
 - * Failed to properly label storage containers for used oil, and failed to properly mark universal waste batteries.

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* Example Violations

- * *EPCRA: Printed circuit boards manufacturer agrees to pay a **\$26,000** civil penalty for failure to submit the TRI report listing the quantities of lead it manufactured, processed or otherwise used in 2006 and 2007.*



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- * How do I get started?
 - * Determine what regulations apply to your facility
 - * Determine status of compliance with those regulations
 - * Determine an appropriate EMS



Environmental Management

- * For all regulatory determinations:
 - * Keep a record of your process
 - * Be accurate and complete
 - * Be organized
 - * Archiving policy
 - * Reconcile anything that's unclear

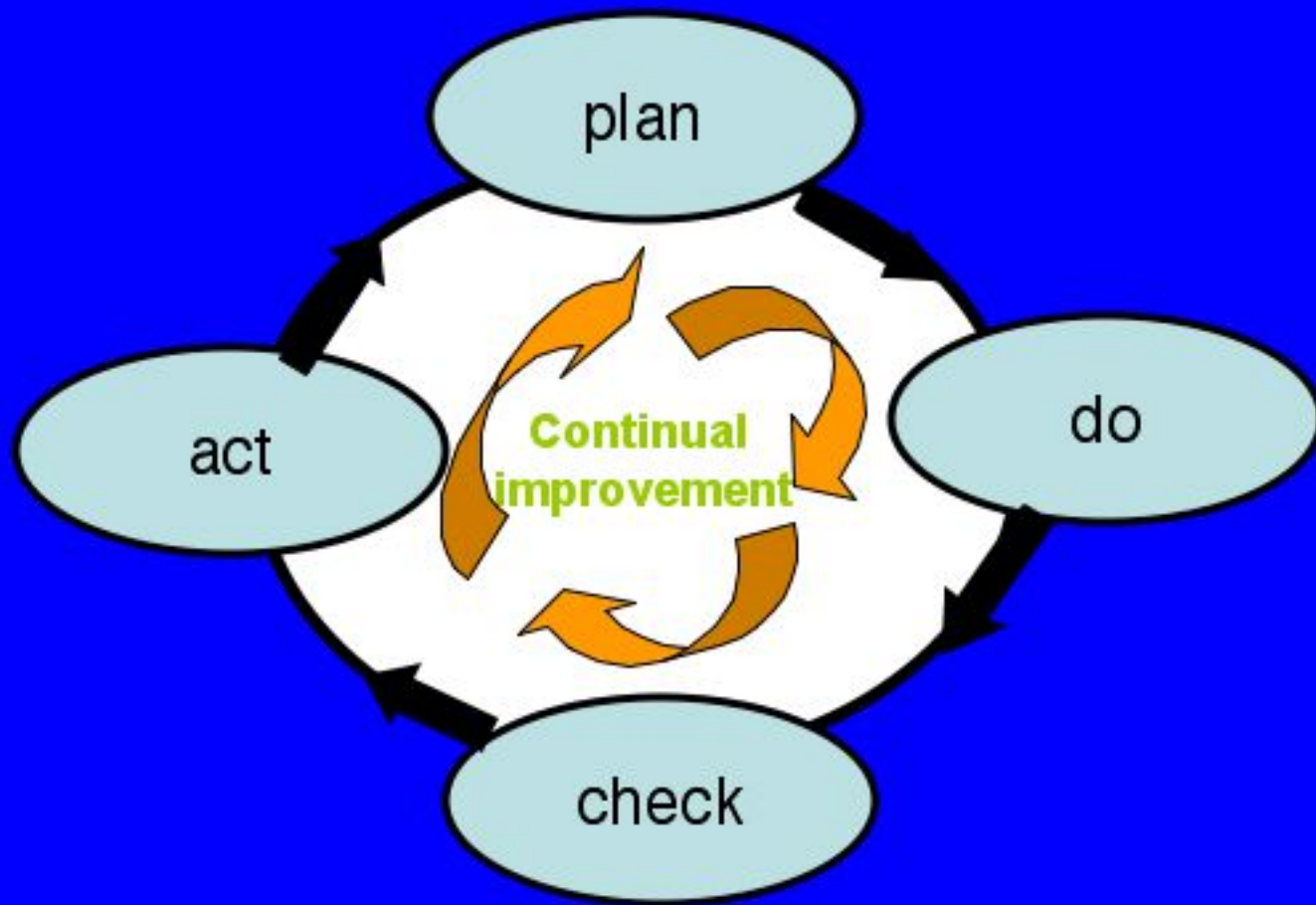


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- * For all regulatory determinations:
 - * Also keep any supporting documentation
 - * Repeat this process regularly to make sure you keep up with regulatory changes
 - * Remember – you are following regulations AND permit requirements
 - * Read all permits immediately
 - * Internal and third party audits
 - * Get help if you need it.



The EMS Framework



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* EMS Development

- * Identify the environmental issues associated with your company
- * Develop a company environmental policy
- * Identify the environmental impacts of your company's processes
- * Set goals and objectives
- * Develop a plan to achieve those goals
- * Self audit, continuous improvement



Environmental Management

- * Environmental Management
 - * Possible tracking methods:
 - * Outlook reminders
 - * Excel spreadsheet
 - * Access database
 - * Software package
 - * Make sure whatever you use is flexible and comprehensive
 - * Keep it simple



Environmental Management

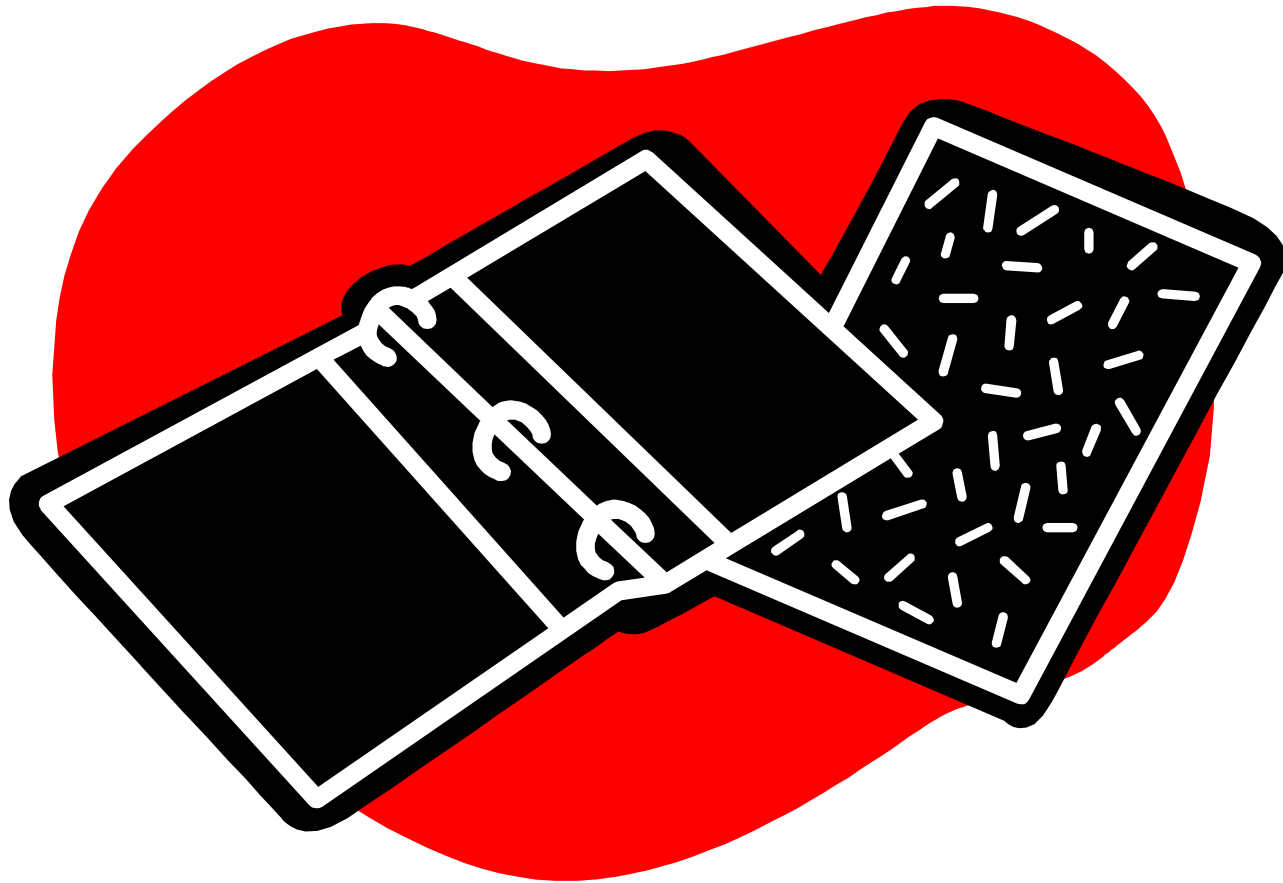
- * Base your system on the complexity of your compliance issues, the experience of your personnel, the number of facilities
- * Electronic vs. Hard Copy
 - * Software possibilities
 - * Some states require hard copies
- * ISO vs. Non-ISO
- * Recognize that its harder to track the long term deliverables.



Environmental Management

- * Environmental Management
 - * Include a method for tracking deficiencies and corrective action
 - * Want to be able to show continuous improvement
 - * Want to be able to track progress from year to year











Environmental Management

* *Virtual Task Manager (VTM)*

- * Developed by EWI
- * Web based, menu-driven, user friendly
- * Customizable to the client
- * Modules to track more than environmental
- * Secure, password access
- * Tiered access, tiered notifications
- * Library and filing system
- * Complete and upload forms electronically
- * Safety Data Sheet management



Environmental Management

- * Common Stumbling Blocks

- * Initial plan is too ambitious
- * May be time consuming
- * Electronic vs. hard copy bias
- * Benefits may not be immediate or may be hard to quantify
- * Personnel not made to feel part of the effort
 - * **Must have management buy in**



Environmental Management

- * Common Stumbling Blocks

- * Software package is too complex or not designed for your operations
- * Internal audits/reviews performed late or not at all
- * Letting your system become stagnant
- * No reward system



Environmental Management

- * **Positive results of a working EMS:**

- * Helps you manage the overall program
- * Make environmental issues part of everyday business
- * Allow business to be proactive rather than reactive (more cost effective)
- * Empower all employees and makes them responsible
- * Results in increased compliance
- * Continuity
- * Positive profile to regulators, public, clients



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* Summary

- * First step is to know the environmental regulations you are subject to
- * Set up a simple but comprehensive plan
- * Set reasonable goals
- * Find a user friendly tracking system
- * Audit regularly
- * Don't hesitate to ask for outside help



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Information Sources

Missouri Department of Natural Resources Website
<http://www.dnr.mo.gov/>

List of Lists <http://www.epa.gov/ceppo/pubs/title3.pdf>

USEPA Region 7 (Kansas , Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, 9 tribal nations)
<http://www.epa.gov/region07/>

USEPA Region 6 (Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Texas, and 66 Tribes) <http://www.epa.gov/region6/index.htm>

List of Environmental Terms and Acronyms
<http://www.epa.gov/OCEPATERMS/>

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Any Questions?

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