

The Environmental Certification process

An organisation wishing to obtain certification must:

- **Carry out the initial Environmental Analysis** which consists of taking a snapshot of the actual operations as compared to the environmental situation..

This analysis must:

- identify all applicable legal ordinances
- identify the significant environmental aspects and impacts
- provide a description of the already existing practices and environmental procedures
- assess environmental emergencies that have already been handled and allocation of significance criteria to all identified environmental aspects

- **Development of the Environmental Management System** through:

- compilation of the Environmental Manual and the documents required by the standard
- application thereof
- execution of internal audits

The Certification Process

• Submission of application

The client submits the certification request to CSQ.

• Evaluation of the documentation

CSQ confirms the existence of the requirements for assessment of the EMS by analysing the Environmental Manual and performing the initial environmental analysis.

• On site audit

The work team carries out this activity within the organisation in two phases.

Phase 1: Assessment of the conformity of the EMS documentation, examination of the environmental permits, recognition of environmental aspects and impacts, analysis of internal audits carried out.

Phase 2: Assessment of conformity to the law, realisation of environmental policy, address any non-conformity recognised in Phase 1.

• Issuing of the certificate

Following the assessment that the organisation is conformant, IMQ issues the Certificate following the decision of the Certification Committee and the ratification of the CSQ Technical Commission.

• Annual monitoring (confirmation of annual improvement)

• Revaluation of the Environmental Management System every three years



The work team

CSQ operates with teams comprising of its own assessors who have solid experience in environmental certification, and of experts of the sector in question who are competent professionals that are also knowledgeable about regulatory issues at the local level.

Cost and time

The assessment visits are planned with account taken of the client's requirements and according to international standards. Lump sum tariffs are applied with estimates that are based on the applicable price list, including all expenses.

International quality

Through IMQ, the CSQ system is part of the CISQ Federation (Certificazione Italiana Sistemi di Qualità Aziendali Italian Certification of Company Quality Systems), which has signed the international IQNet (International Certification Network) agreement: this aims at the mutual recognition of certifications for environmental quality and management systems issued by certifying bodies of the major industrialized countries. An organisation certified by CSQ therefore also obtains the IQNet certificate and the right to use the relative logo.

ABOUT US

The IMQ group is Italy's leading organisation in conformity assessment (certifications, tests, verifications and inspections). With the synergies of its companies, its prestige gained from 60 years of experience and a complete range of services, the IMQ Group is the partner of choice for companies who are committed to safety and quality.

The IMQ group operates in numerous sectors, from the electro-technical and electronics industries to telecommunications, the automotive industry, the gas sector, plant engineering, construction products and the food and agricultural industry. The IMQ group can provide general or targeted services for each product category, based on needs, including product



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The IMQ Group also has a holding in Istituto Giordano S.p.A., in CISOCERT S.p.A. and in Icube S.A. (Argentina).

certification, certification for EC directives, company management system certification, inspections of systems and property, laboratory tests, International type tests, assistance with exports, surveillance of manufacturing abroad, as well as assistance with technical formalities and training.

The comprehensive range of services is delivered through the expertise gained in numerous product categories from IMQ group companies:

IMQ S.p.A., CSI S.p.A., IMQ Primacontrol S.r.l., IMQ Clima S.p.A., ICILA S.r.l., Elcolab

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A naturally
correct option



The uncontrolled exploitation of land and natural resources and the environmental deterioration that ensues are problems that are by now self-evident. All players, whether businesses, administrations, investors or citizens, have begun to understand that saving the environment is a major requirement, to ensure development that is truly sustainable.



The environment and growth are on a converging path

A legacy to guard

The environment is our main asset: the current practice of indiscriminate exploitation cannot continue forever. Appropriate environmental management is therefore an ethical duty that will ensure that development is able to "satisfy" the needs of this generation without compromising the ability of future generations to satisfy theirs (Brundland Report - Our Common Future - 1987).

A transversal need

The acknowledgment of the necessity to defend the environment from the progressive deterioration it is exposed to involves private citizens and institutions across the board, regardless of the roles they cover and the operations they are involved in. Thinking of the environment means thinking of the future.

A competitive edge

The businesses and organisations are something more than simple systems producing goods and services: foresighted managers warn about the growing need to extend the dialogue to an ever growing number of stakeholders. This is why the issue of environmental protection has been assuming more and more importance and has become a part of competitiveness strategies.

Environmental management = company growth

Minimum impact on the environment, maximum impact on competitiveness. Certification of an Environmental Management System according to the ISO 14001 standard is an action that is strategically rewarding. An environmental management system makes it possible for an organisation to pursue its goals and implement policies that take account of legal provisions and of the significant information that applies to environmental issues. It is applicable to companies of any type or size and can be adapted to different geographical, cultural and social situations.

Beyond respect for the law

The attention paid by companies and administrations to environmental issues is not only determined by the obligation to respect laws that are more and more stringent, but also from the fact that the environment can be a critical factor affecting success, provided that it is managed through an active policy aimed at improving performance while con-

taining costs. This understanding is becoming common among all suppliers of goods and services. It is a matter of legislative interventions that benefits virtuous operators but above all it involves an obvious cultural maturity.



Strengthening of performances

The end has come for the traditional conflict between the environment and economic development. The more dynamic concerns, those that depend on innovation to get ahead, have already understood that optimising environmental management means ensuring a competitive position in their respective sectors. Of course, the benefits that ensue include upgrading of the company, efficiency and profitability.

The environmental management system: an instrument of high potential

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Advantages of Environmental Certification

- Setting of an Environmental Management System (EMS) to improve performance that relates to the environment
- Involvement of personnel in a motivating project
- Prevention of ordinances and audits by the supervisory organisations
- Assurance that the regulations and laws will always be respected
- Enhancement of the company image towards all stakeholders
- Reduction of operating costs and administrative-bureaucratic barriers
- Usage of a language that is common to other organisations and the supervisory bodies