Comparison Eco-Lighthouse - ISO 14001

Eco-Lighthouse

- Independent and self-funded national certification scheme. Founders: the Enterprise Federation of Norway, Innovation Norway, the Association of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, the Association of Local and Regional Authorities, the Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions, various counties and municipalities.

- Pre-defined environmental criteria covering the external and work environment for 80+ industries. Criteria are developed in collaboration with legislative bodies, enterprise organisations, experienced consultants and certifiers, and scientific authorities.

- The Eco-Lighthouse is the licencing body, approving, training and monitoring the certifiers. The certifiers certify on behalf of the municipalities.

- Bespoke Eco-Lighthouse web portal, supporting the certification process throughout.

- Annual climate and environmental report is required.

- Certification and the certificate is location specific. The entire site must satisfy all relevant industry criteria.

ISO 14001

- International environmental certification scheme. Part of the ISO system, which is an independent, non-governmental international organisation with a membership of 165 national standards bodies.

- Enterprises analyse and define their environmental aspects and impact, thereupon defining relevant criteria. There is no specified methodology. The standard is mostly used for input-output analyses of goods and services. Industry-independent. External environment only.

- Norwegian accreditation is the accredited auditor.

- A separate standard, NS-EN ISO 14001, with guidance manual in PDF format. No specific digital support tools.

- An annual internal audit is required, but no climate and environmental report is submitted.

- The scope of certification must be clearly delimited and defined (part of an enterprise can be certified).

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Comparison of main differences between the systems	Eco-Lighthouse	ISO 14001
Continuous improvement	Improvements are reported in annual climate and environmental report.	The enterprise must cite improvements in its environmental activities based on its own action plans and targets.
International use	National scheme. EU approved.	Internationally accredited.
Environmental criteria/aspects	Pre-defined in the form of industry criteria.	Enterprises map their own environmental aspects and associated environmental impacts. Enterprises define their own goals and measures to be implemented. The process is based on a model for risk analysis. Used mostly to analyse products and services.
Which industries?	Adapted to 80+ defined industries. Applicable to small and medium-sized enterprises and municipalities/counties or large enterprises.	Industry-independent. Well suited to enterprises with complex environmental aspects and to industrial enterprises.
Scope	Internal and work environment.	External environment. There is a separate ISO standard for work environment.
Submission of annual environmental report	Annual climate and environmental report completed in the Eco-Lighthouse web portal containing pre-defined indicators (general and industry-specific) as well as environmental goals, implemented measures and an action plan. Reported to the management, customers/suppliers and employees. The report must be made available to the general public.	No requirement for a separate environmental report, but an annual internal audit is required. Important environment aspects, targets and action plans are important elements in the management review, as well as internal and external communication of these aspects.
Certification process	For first-time certification, assistance from an approved internal or external Eco-Lighthouse consultant is required.	No external consultant required.
Certification process	Third-party certification every third year. According to Norwegian legislation, an annual internal audit of the HSE system is required. For Annual visit by a head officer certifier in the head office model.	Annual internal audit.
Certifiers	The certifiers are trained, approved and monitored by the Eco-Lighthouse, which functions as a licencing body. The certifiers certify on behalf of the municipality in which the enterprise is located.	Certifiers certify on behalf of companies accredited by Norwegian accreditation.
Certificates	Location specific certification	One certificate for the entire enterprise, comprising all locations.
Management system	Integrated into the existing HSE system. Web-based tools for pre-defined indicators (climate and environmental report).	Based on the enterprise's own systems/tools. No climate and environmental report required.
Adaptation/tools	The bespoke Eco-Lighthouse web portal, supporting the certification process throughout. Environmental review, with templates and tools supporting implementation of industry criteria. Annual climate and environmental report. Guides for enterprises, consultants and certifiers.	A separate standard, NS-EN ISO 14001, with guidance manual in PDF format. No specific digital support tools.

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Reputation	Opportunities for co-branding and enhancement of reputation	ISO 14001 logo/brand.
Price/cost units.	Eco-Lighthouse approved consultant (internal or external), internal resources, certifier and initial plus annual licence/membership fee to the Eco-Lighthouse Foundation.	Internal costs, external auditor and when required, external consultant. Accredited auditor. No membership licence or fee. Acquisition of the ISO 14001 standard.

Comparison of environmental requirements	Eco-Lighthouse	ISO 14001
Scope of certification	The certification and certificate pertain to the physical location. The entire site must satisfy all relevant industry criteria. An enterprise where no relevant criteria are available, cannot be certified.	The scope of certification must be clearly delimited and defined (part of an enterprise may be certified).
Process of defining environmental aspects	Pre-defined environmental criteria covering the external and work environment for 80+ industries. Criteria are developed in collaboration with legislative bodies, enterprise organisations, experienced consultants and certifiers, and scientific authorities. A consultant helps find the relevant criteria at first-time certification. All relevant criteria must be met.	Requirements are not industry specific. Delimitation and scope are defined during the process. The enterprise must compliy with all relevant laws and regulations.
Process of defining measures	The enterprise defines measures to address the environmental aspects as predefined by the criteria.	Enterprises map their own environmental aspects and associated environmental impacts. Enterprises define their own goals and measures to be implemented. The process is based on a model for risk analysis. There are no requirements for absolute performance levels, and the enterprise is free to set its own ambition level/targets. The certifier must decide if the correct aspects have been identified.

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Comparison Eco-Lighthouse - EMAS

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- Pre-defined environmental criteria covering the external and work environment for 80+ industries. Criteria are developed in collaboration with legislative bodies, enterprise organisations, experienced consultants and certifiers, and scientific authorities. A consultant helps at first-time certification.

- The Eco-Lighthouse is the licencing body, approving, training and monitoring the certifiers. The certifiers certify on behalf of the municipalities.

- Bespoke Eco-Lighthouse web portal, supporting the certification process throughout.

- Eco-Lighthouse requires an annual climate and environmental report.

- Certification and the certificate is location specific. The entire site must satisfy all relevant industry criteria.

EMAS

- EMAS is the EUs environmental certification system

- EMAS does not require the enterprise using a consultant. The enterprise identifies its most important environmental aspects and measures to address its environmental impact.

- Norwegian accreditation is the accredited auditor.

- EMAS requires an annual environmental report.

- EMAS certification is location specific.

Prepared by the Eco-Lighthouse