Eco-Lighthouse vs ISO 14001

Eco-Lighthouse

- National certification scheme (founding parties: Enterprise Federation of Norway, Innovation Norway, Association of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS), Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions, county municipalities and municipalities).

- Pre-defined environmental criteria for management systems and internal and external environments. Tailored to more than 80 industries. Internal and external environments.

- Certifying authority delegated to the municipalities.

- Eco-Lighthouse portal, which supports the certification process from start to finish. Own templates and guidance manuals. Advisory service available.

- Annual climate and environmental report.

- Certification and certificate apply to the physical site. The entire site must satisfy all relevant industry criteria.

ISO 14001

- International environmental certification scheme, a part of the ISO system/enterprise (independent, non-government, 163 national members, more than 21,000 standards).

- Enterprises define their own criteria. Separate mapping of enterprises' own environmental aspects and associated environmental impacts. No defined methodology. Used mostly for input-output analyses of goods and services. Industry-independent. External environments only.

- Accredited auditor: Norwegian Accreditation.

- Separate standard, NS-EN ISO 14001, with guidance manual in PDF format. No special digital tools.

- No requirement for annual climate and environmental report.

- 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	Yes, improvements cited in annual climate and environmental report.	Yes, the enterprise must cite improvements in its environmental activities based on its own action plans and targets.
International use	National scheme.	Internationally accredited.
Environmental criteria/aspects	Pre-defined in the form of industry criteria.	Enterprises define their own criteria. Enterprises map their own environmental aspects and associated environmental impacts. No defined methodology. Used mostly to analyse products and services.
Which industries?	Adapted to approx. 84 defined industries, and works for both small enterprises and groups/chains.	Industry-independent, particularly well suited to complex enterprises and to industry.
Scope	Internal and external environments.	External environment (separate standard for working environment).
Preparation of annual environmental report	Annual climate and environmental report must be submitted every year. And to management on the status of environmental activities. Performance on internal and external environments, and targets and action plans are part of this work. And informing internally.	No requirement for a separate environmental report, but must annually review the management of environmental activities. Important environment aspects, targets and action plans are important elements in a management's review, as well as internal and external communication of these aspects.
Certification process	Internal or external consultant trained by the Eco-Lighthouse Foundation required for first-time certification.	No external consultant required.
Certification process	Third-party certification every third year. But annual internal audit (HSE(system)) and submission of a climate and environmental report. Annual visit by a head officer certifier in the head office model.	Annual audit.
Certifiers	Certifying authority rests with the municipality (or county municipality) in which the enterprise is located.	Certifiers work for accredited companies.
Certificates	Per site.	One for the entire enterprise.
Management system	Existing HSE system and 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 Eco-Lighthouse portal, which supports the certification process from start to finish. Environmental mapping, with templates and guides based on industry criteria. Annual climate and environmental report. And guides for enterprises, consultants and certifiers.	Own standard, NS-EN ISO 14001 with guidance manual in PDF format. No special digital tools for identifying significant environment aspects.
Reputation	Reputation-building opportunities associated with the Eco-Lighthouse brand.	ISO 14001 logo/brand.
Price/cost units.	Consultant (internal or external), internal resources, certifier and licence/membership fee to the Eco-Lighthouse Foundation.	Internal costs, external auditor and, where appropriate, consultant. No licence, but must buy the ISO 14001 standard.

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Comparison of environmental requirements	Eco-Lighthouse	ISO 14001
Scope of certification	Certification and certificate are linked to the physical location. The entire site must satisfy all relevant industry criteria. An enterprise where no relevant, adequate criteria exist cannot be certified. Limited certification can be approved in exceptional cases and on request.	The scope of certification must be clearly delimited and defined (part of an enterprise may be certified).
Environmental criteria	The Eco-Lighthouse Foundation manages a set of criteria which all enterprises must satisfy (common criteria) in addition to 84 industry criteria. The enterprise must (with assistance from the consultant) identify which industry criteria are relevant and must be satisfied.	Requirements are not industry-specific. Delimitation and scope are defined during the process. All relevant laws and regulations must be complied with in practice.
Environmental criteria/aspects	The enterprise satisfied defined and specific industry criteria which are designed and revised by the Eco-Lighthouse Foundation. The industry criteria are a mix of statutory requirements, performance requirements and processual requirements.	The enterprise analyses its own significant environmental aspects (based on a model for risk mapping), sets its own targets and prepares actions plans based on the mapping. There are no requirements for absolute performance levels, and the enterprise is free to set its own ambition level/targets.
Environmental criteria	Sets criteria for the external environment beyond laws and regulations. A mix of performance criteria and processual criteria.	No requirements set beyond laws and regulations concerning the external environment (the Internal Control Regulations contain several items that will be relevant for impacting the external environment, and this is incorporated into/specified in the environmental management system).
Environmental criteria	Pre-defined routines for maintaining an environmental management system and a set of external environmental routines pertaining to working environment, procurement, energy, transport, waste, and emissions to air/water based on industry experience must be documented and complied with in practice.	Procedures and routines must be developed for conducting and maintaining environmental management in practice. All procedures and routines must be documented and be verifiable. Delimitations and responsibility for each procedure and routine must be developed.

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Eco-Lighthouse vs EMAS

- Eco-Lighthouse system with consultant. Eco-Lighthouse delegates *certifying authorities* to the individual municipalities, but has pre-defined criteria and carries out its own training, advisory service and control of certification activities.

- Eco-Lighthouse sets requirement for annual climate and environmental report.

- Environmental reports must be submitted to the Eco-Lighthouse Foundation.

- EMAS (and ISO 14001) sets no requirement for using a consultant.

- EMAS requires an accredited certifying body.

- EMAS requires an annual environmental report.

- Environmental report made publicly available in EMAS.