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**ISO 14000  
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT STANDARDS  
IN THE CONTEXT OF REGULATION AND TRADE**

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# ISO 14000 Environmental Management Standards in the Context of Regulation and Trade

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## Presentation Outline

- ◆ International Standardization
- ◆ Evolution of EM Standards
- ◆ ISO 14000 Standards and Trade
- ◆ Interface of ISO 14000 Standards  
with Legislation and Regulation
- ◆ The Future



## International Standardization

Facilitate Trade & Technology transfer through:

- Enhanced product quality and reliability at a reasonable & acceptable price
- Improved health, safety and environmental protection, including reduction of waste
- Greater compatibility of goods and services
- Simplification for improved usability
- Reduction in the number of models, creating better system efficiencies and cost
- Increased distribution efficiency and ease of maintenance
- Reduction in the proliferation of standards and hence the creation of a level playing field for all



## Standards Approach to Environmental Issues

- ◆ Standards are good tools to apply universal sets of principles and procedures
- ◆ The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) established Technical Committee 207 in 1993 to develop international environmental management standards



## ISO/TC 207 Vision

- ◆ to facilitate world trade
- ◆ and to ultimately contribute to sustainable development through world wide acceptance
- ◆ and use of ISO 14000 Standards,
- ◆ which will provide the means to improve environmental performance of organizations and their products and services



## ISO 14000 Standards Must

- ◆ Result in better environmental management
- ◆ Be applicable in all nations
- ◆ Promote the broad interests of the public and the users of the standards
- ◆ Be cost effective, non-prescriptive, and flexible, as to meet the different needs of organizations of any size, worldwide
- ◆ Be suitable for internal or external verification
- ◆ Be scientifically based



## TC 207's Five Key Strategies

- ◆ Management of 14000 Standards
- ◆ Compatibility with other Standards
- ◆ Implementation
- ◆ Interfaces (trade, legislation, business and intergovernmental)
- ◆ Communication



## Key Strategy - Interfaces

- ◆ International Trade
- ◆ Intergovernmental groups (eg. UNCSD)
- ◆ Legislation vs. voluntary initiatives
- ◆ Business Organizations & Industry Associations



## **ISO 14000 Standards and International Trade**

- ◆ Traditional benefit of Standards has been to facilitate trade between nations
- ◆ EM's intent has been to develop a common language on environmental issues, & to create a level playing field for EM
- ◆ TC 207's objectives are to facilitate trade while encouraging improvements in env. Performance



## **ISO 14000 Standards and Trade Problem with PPMs ! "Processes and Production Methods"**

- ◆ Potential to restrict the international flow of goods and services by setting special requirements that foreign suppliers cannot meet
- ◆ WTO rules accept the right of nations to implement regulations or adopt standards for environmental protection, provided that all goods and services sold in the country are treated in the same way, regardless of origin



## ISO 14000 Standards and Trade - PPMs

- ◆ The WTO rules generally exclude instruments that take into consideration the processes and production methods (PPMs) used to create goods and services



## ISO 14000 Standards and Trade - PPMs

- ◆ Exclusion based on the assumption that there may be wide differences between countries with respect to resources, production methods, and environmental issues.
- ◆ Restrictions based on PPMs could end up being unfair to companies in some exporting countries





## PPMs & ISO/TC 207 Life Cycle Assessment & Environmental Labelling Standards!

- ◆ LCA Standards (ISO 14040/14041)
  - provide information on how to assess environmental loadings associated with the life cycle of a product or service, including assessments of inputs & outputs such as energy and materials utilized
- ◆ EL Standards (ISO 14020/14024)
  - address how information about a product is expressed on its label, which may include data on the materials and methods used in producing the item



## PPMs and ISO /TC 207 Environmental Management Systems

### ISO 14001 *Environmental Management Systems -Specification*

- ◆ If manufacturers in a particular country demand that their local suppliers become certified to ISO 14001, would this place the same burden on foreign suppliers?



## How can PPMs, the ISO 14000 Family, and International Trade Coexist Efficiently?

- ◆ If used as a cooperative effort between nations, the ISO 14000 standards provide an opportunity to harmonize environmental requirements internationally



## PPMs and the ISO 14000 Family

- ◆ As generic standards, the ISO 14000 series have the advantage of being flexible enough to allow for differing economic and environmental situations in different areas of the world



## Environment and Trade - Strategy for ISO/TC 207

- ◆ Much more experience with the standards is needed, and international structures for certification and mutual recognition are still being built.
- ◆ The primary tasks at this time are:
  - to create and maintain communications with trade organizations and other concerned bodies,
  - to involve developing countries in the discussions,
  - to be willing to listen,
  - to operate and make decisions openly and transparently



## Trade and the Environment Communications

- ◆ UNCTAD
- ◆ WTO
- ◆ UNEP
- ◆ UNCSD
- ◆ EC NAFTA APEC
- ◆ Others



## Interface of ISO 14000 Standards with Legislation & Regulation

- ◆ ISO 14001 requires organizations to establish and maintain procedures to:
  - identify and have access to relevant legislation and regulations
  - ensure that its legislative records are applicable to its business activities.
- ◆ ISO 14001 also provides the ideal management structure to centrally store and maintain permits, licenses, authorizations, etc.



## Interface of ISO 14000 Standards with Legislation & Regulation

- ◆ Voluntary Environmental Standards will provide a basis for governments to meet international obligations through forums of environmental protection and management that are alternatives to the traditional command and control model
- ◆ They do so without infringing on national sovereignty or inhibiting the ability to compete
- ◆ Standards have the potential to reduce regulation-making and enforcement burden on governments, as the cost of both development and conformity assessment is borne by the private sector



## Interface of ISO 14000 Standards with Legislation & Regulation

- ◆ ISO 14000 EMS standards are intended to be voluntary
- ◆ They can be applied by all organizations, small and large
- ◆ They can assist legislatures by ensuring due diligence
- ◆ They can play a significant role ensuring a level playing field between Manufacturers and Suppliers



## Summary

- ◆ Overarching goal of TC 207 is to produce standards that are widely used and accepted across sectors, national borders and by all types of organizations
- ◆ Future collective efforts of ISO, TC 207, WTO, UNCTAD, and other international bodies, should lead to a stronger trading system - one that is compatible with worldwide environmental improvement
- ◆ An organization that plans, implements, monitors and continuously improves an EMS, using ISO 14001 and ISO 14004, will be better positioned to anticipate and avoid conflict with regulations both in its own country and in the countries of its customers and suppliers



## The Future

- ◆ The ISO/TC 207 Family of Standards and their interrelationship with trade and the environment are tough topics to deal with!
- ◆ With strong cooperation, and through international meetings, like this conference, we can ensure that all countries including emerging economies benefit from our ISO series of Environmental Standards

