



## Economic and Social Council

Distr.  
GENERAL

TRADE/WP.6/1999/14  
16 March 1999

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND  
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Working Party on Technical Harmonization  
and Standardization Policies

Ninth session, 17-19 May 1999

Item 8(c) of the provisional agenda

### CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT: QUALITY POLICY ISSUES

Questionnaire and concept paper on the preparation of  
a workshop on the experience of using of ISO 14000 standards  
in the chemical industry in ECE member States

Note by the secretariat

#### Introduction

1. In the context of the work being carried out by the Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies (WP.6) of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development, the wider use of ISO 14000 Environmental Management System Standards is regarded as being of considerable importance. The ISO 14000 series does not set levels of environmental performance; it specifies the requirements of an environmental management system. ISO 14001 states "This International Standard does not establish absolute requirements for environmental performance beyond commitment, in policy, to compliance with applicable legislation and regulations, and to continual improvement." Furthermore, "These standards, like other international standards, are not intended to be used to create non-tariff technical barriers to trade".

GE.99-30809

2. During its eighth session the Working Party asked the secretariat and rapporteurs to decide on the future of the questionnaire on ISO 14000 which was discussed at the meeting. At their meeting in October 1998, the rapporteurs decided that it would be useful to concentrate the scope of this questionnaire on a particular sector, namely the chemical industry, in view of its importance in the ECE region and of the environmental concerns often raised by activities of chemical enterprises. It was also decided that in implementing this project, the Working Party will cooperate with the UN/ECE ad hoc Group of Experts on the Chemical Industry.

### **Discussion**

3. The experience gained in using the ISO 14000 series in the chemical industry, where there is already substantial implementation - particularly in Germany, Japan and the United Kingdom - may be regarded as a model for the introduction and use of these standards in other industries and in other regions or subregions. Further implementation within the chemical industries of countries in transition would be a useful first step in pursuing this policy, and the idea of holding a workshop to promote this wider use in the chemical industry of countries in transition has been tentatively discussed, to take place before the end of 1999, perhaps in Budapest.

4. The workshop might consist of a panel of selected speakers with experience in using ISO 14000 standards in the chemical industry, and an analysis of the present position of ISO 14000 in the chemical industry of countries in transition. Speakers would be sought from major players in the area, such as ISO itself, the European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC) and some chemical enterprises already implementing the ISO 14000 system. Participants in the workshop would be drawn primarily from policy makers in the countries in transition dealing with standardization issues in industry.

### **Questionnaire**

5. For the analysis, the secretariat has prepared for distribution the attached questionnaire which takes into account, inter alia, the results of a survey on ISO 9000 and ISO 14000 conducted by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in 1997, but is aimed specifically at the chemical industry.

6. It is hoped that delegates to the annual sessions of the ad hoc Group of Experts on the Chemical Industry to be held 28-30 April 1999 and to the current session of the Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies (WP.6) will assist the secretariat by providing responses to the questionnaire, and, should the idea of the workshop be supported by delegates to both meetings:

- disseminate information about the workshop to appropriate bodies within their countries,
- identify potential speakers for the workshop,
- publicize the workshop through the media in their countries.

7. The purpose of the questionnaire is to assess the current situation as to awareness and implementation of environmental management standards in general and in the chemical industry in particular. This should, on the one hand, attract the attention of international standards organizations to technical problems impeding the introduction of ISO 14000 standards and, on the other, attract the attention of Governments to perceived gaps in environment management schemes, as seen by enterprises in the business community.

8. The questionnaire is aimed at:

- standardizing/certification bodies and authorities,
- chemical companies and federations/associations,
- ministries or other governmental officials dealing with the chemical industry.

9. These groups are requested to provide their opinion on the general situation in their country and specifically - if possible - on the situation in their national chemical industry. The opinions of chemical companies and federations are particularly important to understanding specific problems which impede implementation of environmental management systems and standards.

10. The secretariat would be grateful to have information both on results of implementation and also on non-implementation, as this will allow recommendations to be tailored to specific situations in individual countries.

11. Comments and responses to the questionnaire should be sent to either of the following addresses:

Mr. Serguei Kouzmine  
Secretary of the Working Party on  
Technical Harmonization and  
Standardization Policies

Mr. Howard Hornfeld  
Programme Coordinator for the  
Chemical Industry

Trade Division  
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe  
Palais des Nations  
CH-1211 Geneva 10 Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 917 2771  
Fax.: +41 22 917 0479  
e-mail: serguei.kouzmine@unece.org

Tel.: +41 22 917 3254  
Fax.: +41 22 917 0178  
email: chem@unece.org

Comments and responses should be sent **by 15 May 1999.**

\* \* \*

## Questionnaire

**IMPLEMENTATION OF ISO 14000 STANDARDS IN THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY**

Prepared by: .....

Country: .....

Organization/company: .....

Responsible person (position): .....

Address: .....

.....

Phone (country/city/codes): .....

Fax: .....

E-mail: .....

**A. Awareness**

1. Would you consider that in your country your Government, standardization bodies and the chemical industry and its federations and the technical press are aware of the existence of the ISO 14000 Environmental Management System Series of Standards ?

	<u>Highly aware</u>	<u>Know about</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Government officials	...	...	...
Standardization bodies	...	...	...
Chemical associations	...	...	...
Large chemical enterprises	...	...	...
Small chemical enterprises	...	...	...
Technical press	...	...	...

**KINDLY COMPLETE AND RETURN TO:**

Mr. Serguei Kouzmine, Secretary of the Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies

or Mr. Howard Hornfeld, Programme Coordinator for the Chemical Industry

Trade Division  
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe  
Palais des Nations  
CH-1211 Geneva 10 (Switzerland)

Tel.: +41 22 917 2771  
Fax.: +41 22 917 0479  
e-mail:serguei.kouzmine@unece.org

Tel.: +41 22 917 3254  
Fax.: +41 22 917 0178  
e-mail:chem@unece.org

2. Would you consider that in your country the general public is realistically aware of the environmental effects of industry in general and of the chemical industry? Does it play a role in exerting environmental pressures on the industry? Is it aware of the efforts (or lack thereof) being made by the industry in managing environmental performance?

<u>General public</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Low</u>
Realistic awareness of chemical industry effects	...	...	...
Influence on industry in general	...	...	...
Influence on chemical industry	...	...	...
Awareness of industrial efforts in environmental management	...	...	...

**B. Environmental Legislation**

3. Is environmental performance evaluation of enterprises regulated in your country?

... Yes

... No

If yes, please specify the regulations, the titles and provide if possible a brief description:

4. Is there any regulation on environmental labelling (eco-labelling)? If so, please specify:

**C. Implementation of ISO 14000 Standards**

5. Please specify which, if any, ISO 14000 standards have been adopted in your country as national standards

6. Has implementation of ISO 14000 standards been supported by your Government? If so, in what manner?

7. If ISO 14001 is utilized in the chemical industry of your country, please indicate the number of enterprises that

- have been certified for it ...
- are in the implementation phase ...
- are planning to implement it within the next year ...

8. How many ISO 14001 certification/registration organizations (national/foreign subsidiaries) operate in your country?

How many of them are accredited?

How many of them have mutual recognition agreements?

How many of them are competent to deal with the chemical industry?

9. Is there a network of consultancies (national/foreign subsidiaries) providing assistance in ISO 14000 standards in general and in particular for the chemical industry in your country? If yes, please briefly describe.

10. Is there any coordination between environmental performance evaluation and ISO 14001 certification/registration? If yes, please describe.

11. Is ISO 14001 certification/registration supported by your Government? If yes, in what way?

12. Does the chemical industry need further external support to increase ISO 14001 certification (apart from financial assistance)? If yes, in which ways could you suggest this be done?

13. If financial assistance were to be available, which order of priorities do you believe would apply in your country? Please indicate 1 (highest) through 5 (lowest). The same rating may be used more than once.

- ... awareness campaigns
- ... training
- ... consultancy
- ... implementation
- ... SMEs

14. What are the main barriers to further ISO 14000 certifications in the chemical industry of your country? Please indicate 1 (highest) through 5 (lowest). The same rating may be used more than once.

- ... lack of awareness of benefits
- ... cost of setting up an ISO 14000 system
- ... cost of registration/certification
- ... cost of consultancy
- ... low commercial return
- ... lack of internal expertise / competence

**D. Environmental labels (ISO 14020)**

15. Which environmental labels in general and for the chemical industry exist in your country?

16. Are any of these environmental labels supported by the Government?

17. Is there any control of the application of environmental labels on products or production in the chemical industry? If yes, please describe briefly.

18. Is there any Government subsidy programme for production of environmentally sound products or for environmentally friendly manufacture?

19. If ISO 14020 labelling is not implemented in your country, do you expect this to occur within the next two years?

**E. Practical experience in introducing Environmental Management Systems (EMS) for those enterprises which have received or are awaiting certification**

20. Perceived benefits and requirements which made your company (companies in your country) introduce ISO 140001 standard: (1 - **very important**; 2 - **important**; 3 - **fairly important**; 4 - **not important**; 5 - **don't know**)

*Necessity to meet requirements:*

- (a) international environmental legislation ...
- (b) local legislation and or governmental requirements ...
- (c) self-imposed environmental targets ...

*Necessity to meet demand from:*

- (a) domestic customers ...
- (b) customers abroad ...
- (c) to match competitors which have such certification ...

For companies who already have ISO 14001 certification:

21. Specific problems faced by your company (companies in your country) in introduction of ISO 14000 standards:

- (a) did you (they) have any specific problems relating to understanding or interpreting specific provisions of the ISO 14001 standard?
- (b) which areas were most difficult in introducing environmental management system(EMS)?
- (c) did you (they) already have quality management systems (under the ISO 9000 series of standards) and, if yes, did it facilitate introducing an EMS?
- (d) did you (they) use consultants to introduce an EMS (in which areas, training, audit, etc.)?
- (e) did you (they) have major problems with employees or managers when introducing an EMS, and was special training organized prior to introducing of the EMS? If yes, please specify.

---

Thank you for your kind assistance.

Trade Division, UN/Economic Commission for Europe