



EWS CERTIFICATION



For sectors committed to water management, EWS implementation is a practical tool for improving sustainable water use with technical advice, risk assessment and implementation of strategic improvements. EWS has proven that it is a viable solution for those who seek in addition for a reliable and expertly reviewed certification scheme.

HOW DOES CERTIFICATION LEAD TO IMPROVEMENTS IN WATER MANAGEMENT?

The strength of a certification scheme for water use is how it assists companies in responding to factors linked to local challenges in water use via management as well as via communication to investors, customers and within supply chain. A targeted on site performance evaluation identifies points of improvement for a targeted response strategy.

WHAT IS ACHIEVED VIA IMPLEMENTATION OF EWS STANDARD?

Companies not only map water cycle on-site but also identify opportunities for improvement and mitigation actions. Standard implementation provides assistance on challenging water-related issues such as reporting on water pollution, maneuvering legislative requirements, dealing with on-site wastewater and addressing protected ecosystems within the vicinity of its operational sites. Leadership of company in taking the initiative to go for certification under the EWS standard, demonstrating **social corporate responsibility**.

BENEFITS FROM EWS CERTIFICATION

The EWS standard has provided **practical guidance** for water users across the board. EWS has proven that it is a viable solution for those who seek a reliable and expertly reviewed certification scheme for sustainable water management.

EWS implementation has demonstrated that it is a **practical tool** for improving sustainable water use with technical advice, education organization-wide on water usage, assistance in assessing risks and implementation of strategic improvements. EWS certification offers clear **advantages** to the private sector including:

- Demonstration of Corporate Social Responsibility with efficient corporate strategies for water management.
- Reinforcing relationships with regional actors.
- Compliance with national and international legislation.
- Mitigation of business risks related to water use including the affects of water quality, supply reliability and price on operations and physical assets.
- Reassurance to investors and customers of good corporate governance.
- Potential financial support in the form of investment subsidies and export credit guarantees.
- Improved efficiency and associated cost savings.



EWS CERTIFICATION (CONTINUED)



STEPS TOWARDS YOUR EWS CERTIFICATION

- Choose one EWS recognized **certification body (CB)**.
- Apply at the CB for EWS certification.
- You receive an offer from your CB.
- If this offer is suitable for you, you sign a contract with your CB. The CB assigns a EWS reference number for you.
- You receive a “EWS system plan” that prepares you for the audit. Submit your completed system plan to the CB.

After that, audit dates are agreed with your CB and the audit is conducted on-site. The audit checklist and report is completed by auditor. The certifier of the CB reviews the documents and makes a certification decision. In case of compliance, a EWS certificate is awarded for a period of 3 years. You will receive annual surveillance audits to ensure continual compliance or improvements.

WHEN DO I RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE?

You receive a certificate when achieving full compliance meaning that you prove to the auditor that there is compliance with every applicable indicator classified as a

“major” and at least 50% of all “minors”. A production site can be classified at 3 levels:

Gold: >90% Compliance with all minor requirements.

Silver: >70% Compliance with all minor requirements.

Bronze: >50% Compliance with all minor requirements.

ROLE OF THE CERTIFICATION BODIES

- Conform to the EWS recognition requirements for CBs and participate in regular trainings.
- Conduct compliance assessments (audits) of operators of all sectors in accordance with the EWS accreditation and certification requirements.
- Issue certificates of compliance and to conduct monitoring assessments throughout the lifetime of any certificate.

CERTIFICATION COSTS

The costs for EWS certification involve:

- License fee for using the EWS standard referring to the EWS license fee (see **Certification Outline**).
- This fee is invoiced by the CB and forwarded by the CB to the EWS.
- Audit fees determined by the CB on individual offer.