

Highlights of Environmental Management System: Case of Textile Industry

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Abstract: Experience showed that some of textile companies have very little practice on environmental management system in their working environment. It is the aim of this study to highlight Environmental Management System (EMS), especially in textile industry. Further dissection goes to highlight EMS activities and its effect to the environment, study on implementation of ISO 14001 and to propose guidelines for further EMS studies.

Key words: ISO 14001, environmental management system, textile, further studies, Malaysia

INTRODUCTION

One of the oldest industries which were established since hundred years ago is textile industry. As one of the basic requirements of human beings is to be covered, this industry plays a vital role by providing clothes for people. By improving gradually at the start of the research, various needs of human beings such as luxury purposes were satisfied very fast. According to Francis *et al.* (2005), many different purposes and applications of human beings, such as fire fighting cloth, space researches and geotextile, etc., were satisfied by textile industry.

As textile industry is one of the oldest industries in all over the world, it is named as; the most economic powerful industry. According to Ioannis and Mariolakos (2003), as textile industry is an enormous and intensive production industry, it creates a sector with high environmental impact. Now-a-days, there is a sustainable debate regarding the use of natural resources, distributing of ecological resources among generations and constructing the human potential in corporation and society instead of their devastation (Francis *et al.*, 2005).

The agenda 21: The program of Action for Sustainable Development was approved by the Global Environmental Summit which was held by the United Nations in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. This agenda specifies the events for setting up the sustainable development. As Francis *et al.* (2005) and Schaarsmith (2005) stated that a major challenge for business managers has been demonstrated from the time that the social environmental and economic dimensions of sustainability were integrated into a process.

The environmental management had been drove to a front position of the company activities by a steady shift toward sustainable development which is a very imperative and adopted situation for any developed population. Some of the lately developed countries, such as Malaysia go behind the footsteps by ever more integrating the environmental safeguards into economic activities. According to Salman (2004), the wide acceptance of ISO 14001 at the international level has gained the attention of Malaysia for the reason that most of the international customers counting textile products have now integrated environmental elements in the code of conduct for making their contractors more liable from an environmental perspective.

Environmental Management System (EMS) is a kind of tool regarding the performances, processes, resources and tasks of environmental management implementation. EMS makes the organizations able in getting and expressing the constant compliance due to the environmental parameters. The environmental impact of the organizations' activities, products and services would be controlled falling in line with their self-affirmed environmental policy and goals by this system. The environmental aspects which are controlled by the organizations and those which are estimated to be influential are included in EMS. As Francis *et al.* (2005) and Salman (2004) stated all air, water, land, natural properties, people in the organization, Fauna and Flora and interested and the parties which are affected might be included.

ISO 14001 is identified as one of the most well-known and qualified environmental management systems which entail an assessment of environmental features and any

features which might be considered essential and consequently leads a company to examine its supply chain potentially down to the probable consequence (Ioannis and Mariolakos, 2003).

TECHNICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Down to the huge amount of production of the textile industry, a sector with high environmental impact is created by that. Waste water, air emissions and solid or enduring wastes are assumed as the most important environmental impacts which are created from textile construction and textile ultimate. Consequently, it is vital to incorporate the Environmental Management Systems (EMS) in to the sector.

Some main trading nations and trade variable organizations such as World Trade Organization identified the ISO 14001 which is a set of international voluntary principles. According to Chen and Burns (2006) and Arifin *et al.* (2009), Malaysian firms demonstrate conventional consider to the ISO 14001 agreement, where only 346 firms were estimated to be qualified in December, 2005.

CONCLUSION

The aim of this study was to highlight company's production's activities and its implications to the environment and propose guideline for implementation of EMS which could enable company to get ISO 14001 certification.

SUGGESTIONS

Base on this study, suggested further researches are:

- To evaluate company's production activities and its implications to the environment

- To propose guideline for implementation of environmental management system which could enable company to get ISO 14001 certification

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