



Vinyl Council Australia

Vinyl Council of Australia

ABN 85 083 012 533

P.O. Box 11

Laverton VIC 3028

Telephone 03 9368 6230

info@pvcproductstewardship.org.au

Environmental Management Systems (EMS)

PVC Industry Minimum Acceptable Standard

There are three broad phases of development and implementation of an EMS based on international standards:

1. whether the company has a policy and procedures in place to support environmental management, i.e. appropriate systems and management practices have been developed and are reviewed;
2. whether the company is implementing the systems and has processes for controlling environmental risks and management and improving performance; and
3. whether the company is reporting on its environmental performance, and reviewing and refining its EMS.

Based on this and a due consideration of the results of our EMS Survey, the following aspects of an EMS are proposed as *the minimum* that might be considered acceptable in terms of responsible environmental management. Under the PSP, we would propose that all Signatories take the steps necessary to achieve this minimum. The minimum aspects are:

- The company has a *documented* Environmental Policy providing guiding principles for the company's environmental performance, commitment and responsibility.
- The company has assessed *and documented* the environmental aspects of its operations so as to identify any significant impacts, and has prioritised the impacts in terms of significance.
- The company has identified *and documented* its legal (or other) environmental obligations.
- The company has developed a set of environmental improvement objectives related to the identified aspects and/or significant impacts and its legal obligations.
- The company has operational procedures and/or action plans prepared for achieving its environmental objectives and targets and to control operations and processes associated with identified significant environmental impacts.
- The company has defined roles, responsibilities and authorities with respect to its environmental management and communicates these to relevant personnel.
- The company has identified and assessed reasonably foreseeable, potential significant environmental health or safety incidents which may result from an emergency or unplanned event and has procedures in place to minimise the risk of incidents and manage impacts in the event of an incident.
- The company's employee/contractor training program includes awareness of the company's environmental impacts, policy and procedures.
- The company identifies and investigates non-conformances with its environmental management practices and procedures and takes corrective action where necessary.
- The company conducts an environmental assessment in capital expenditure projects eg. where a new process is adopted, a major modification is to be implemented, a major acquisition made or assets divested.
- The company's management periodically reviews and evaluates its environmental management to ensure continuing effectiveness and adequacy.
- The company has procedures or policies for communicating its environmental performance and management to internal and external stakeholders.