



Modelling certification public supervision interaction



Introduction

Following the IMPEL project “Working together; public and private supervisor assessing EMS /CMS”, public and private stakeholders will develop a model for the use of private management system certification by public supervisors.

This model will enable public supervisors to decide whether private certificates reflect effective compliance management in regulated companies. The model will be developed with a tool like iDEPEND, to develop a framework for arranging alignment between public supervisors and private stakeholders.

Background

Self regulation is a difficult subject. It is clear that we cannot blindly trust self regulation as public supervisors. On the other hand, if there would be no self regulation at all, we would have a huge problem. The IMPEL project working together has developed practical tools like a guidance for the assessment and stimulation of compliance management systems (CMS).

By applying this tool, public supervisors can benefit optimally from the potential for self regulation within the regulated community. This CMS supervision enables the supervisor to distinguish between companies with well and poorly designed and implemented CMS's, as we know the paper world and the real world are not always the same.

TARGET GROUP

- Inspection authorities
- Permitting authorities
- Managers (coordinators)
- Inspectors
- Policy departments
- Certifying bodies
- Accreditation bodies
- Companies

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In the most recent part of this interesting project, the IMPEL core team focuses on the question if and how privately certified management ISO 14001 and EMAS could be used by public supervisors.

Work in progress

Regarding the above mentioned, how can we decide whether a certificate means that the CMS is working adequately and how can we improve the reliability of private certification for public

To get an answer to this question we have initiated a dialogue with regulated companies, certifying bodies (CI's) and accreditation bodies (AB's). We have identified the six most important key factors and we have been invited by the European Accreditation bodies (EA) to comment on the guidance document for CI's to assess compliance management as part of a ISO 14001 audit (EA7/04). The IMPEL board has expressed its appreciation to co-operate and stated that it is important to developing a guidance, and mentioned that implementation is doubly so and often more challenging. The IMPEL board told the EA that IMPEL would like to contribute to an effective implementation of the guidance. This may be in the form of formal and informal interaction such as by supplying information about the certified community as far as this is useful, possible and allowed.

Outcomes

Our aim is to design and establish a learning system based in interaction between public and private stakeholders on national levels assuring that private certification of CMS's is reliable and is continually improved. Both in Scotland, England/Wales and the Netherlands the first steps to create such a system have already been taken. Monitoring on a European level of these national systems is necessary to learn and retain best practices.

LINKS

- [IMPEL projects on Compliance assurance through company compliance management systems](#)
- [Guidance compliance: Company Management System \(CMS\) assistance](#)
- [iDepend tool](#)

KEY WORDS

- Compliance management
- Private supervision
- Public supervision
- Managementsystems
- Compliance Assurance
- iDepend