MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

(ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH)

DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

(ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY)

DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

(ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH)

DIRECTOR, DEFENSE AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Interim Guidance on Environmental Management Systems

and ISO14001

DoD is committed to reducing its impacts on the environment

and to reducing the costs of its environmental programs. One way

to help achieve these goals is to improve DoD's environmental

management systems (EMS). Specifically, we are interested in

determining how the International Organization for

Standardization's standard, Environmental Management Systems -

Specification with Guidance for Use (ISO 14001) can help DoD

organizations reduce risks, improve compliance with environmental

regulations using pollution prevention wherever possible, enhance

stewardship of natural and cultural resources, contain costs, and

meet emerging regulatory requirements.

To examine these issues, DoD is conducting a thorough

evaluation of ISO 14001. The EMS Committee, composed of

representatives of the DoD Components, is conducting the

evaluation. The attachment lists DoD Component and Office of the

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Environmental Security)

representatives on the Committee. To provide a consistent

framework for evaluating ISO 14001, I'm issuing the following

interim policy:

Third Party Certification and Becoming a Registrar

At this time, DoD does not endorse nor support payment for

third-party certification of ISO 14001 at domestic or overseas

locations, except where an organization demonstrates clearly to

its respective Component Headquarters that the benefits of

certification will exceed costs. DoD does not endorse efforts by

DoD entities to become accredited registrars who perform third-

party certification.

Pilot Studies

DoD Components are encouraged to conduct pilot studies of

ISO 14001 implementation. The results of any such studies will

be considered prior to developing final policy on using ISO 14001

within DoD. To evaluate the costs and benefits of ISO 14001

implementation in different types of organizations, the EMS

Committee is developing pilot study criteria for organizations or

installations that desire to conduct pilot studies under the EMS

Committee framework. DoD Components, working with the EMS

Committee, will designate the organizations or installations that

will participate. Guidance on the pilot study program will be

issued in the near future.

Internal Communication

While the pilot studies are in progress, we want to

encourage communications in all directions. The EMS Committee

members will serve as focal points within their organizations for

facilitating the flow of information. Open communications will

help produce successful pilots by sharing lessons learned and

will help the EMS Committee develop final policy. To facilitate

communications, we are establishing a section on the Defense

Environmental Network and Information Exchange (DENIX) that is

devoted to ISO 14001.

The Regional Environmental Coordinators (RECs) can help the

communication process by coordinating DoD EMS interests within

regions, as appropriate. Development and implementation of EMS

policy, however, will be coordinated through the DoD Components'

chain of command.

Communication with ISO

To ensure that the Department's assessment of ISO 14001 and

its related ISO 14000 series documents are consistently expressed

in the international community, the Office of the Deputy Under

Secretary of Defense (Environmental Security) will represent DoD

on the US Technical Advisory Group to ISO Technical Committee

207. In addition, the Chairperson of the EMS Committee may

designate DoD Component staff to represent DoD at other ISO

meetings.

Sherri W. Goodman

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense

(Environmental Security)

Attachment

Attachment

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