



São Paulo - Brazil - May - 22nd to 24th - 2013

R4th INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ADVANCES IN CLEANER PRODUCTION

“INTEGRATING CLEANER PRODUCTION INTO SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES”

Business Certifications for ISO 14001: Descriptive and Comparative Study of the Evolution Over the Period 2000 to 2010

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Abstract

The evolution of certifications in the last decade highlights the concern about aspects related to environmental management in enterprises, based on a overview from every continent on the standards of the ISO 14000 series. In this sense, the aim of this article is to demonstrate the growth of certificated companies based on information consolidated from the descriptive and comparative analysis, identifying continents and countries that grew the most from 2000 to 2010. The research is: bibliographic, documentary; descriptive and exploratory research. Regarding on the approach is: qualitative and quantitative. The results demonstrated the evolution of the certifications over the period studied, and gave visibility to the current stage of certifications by continent and countries. It was found that companies use certifications as a requirement for improving the indicators of competitiveness, innovation and for eliminate barriers imposed by importing and exporting countries. The requirements to certify the environmental management system are related to the compliance of internal and external procedures, where companies seek to meet of the stakeholders.

Keywords: *ISO 14001 certifications, environmental management system, continents, countries, companies.*

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