



3rd INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ADVANCES IN CLEANER PRODUCTION

“CLEANER PRODUCTION INITIATIVES AND CHALLENGES FOR A SUSTAINABLE WORLD”

A Study on the use of Environmental Performance Indicators (EPI) in Environmental Management Systems (EMS)

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Abstract

Environment issues have gained greater evidence on the corporate agenda nowadays. The view that pollution is only one undesirable consequence is no longer endorsed by organizations, bringing up the importance of managing their environmental issues. Facing this challenge, one of the actions taken by the companies has been the implementation and certification of an environmental management system (EMS). In this sense, the aim of this paper is to present a set of environmental performance measures used to manage the EMS and that can contribute to the effectiveness of ISO 14001 system. This research is exploratory and descriptive, conducted through a survey. Data was collected by an instrument sent to ISO 14001 certified companies in the Santa Catarina State in Brazil. The target companies were from various economic sectors. The target population consisted of 73 organizations and accessible population resulted in 62 companies. From those, 39 companies participated in the survey. The results show the characteristics of respondents and the most used environmental performance measures according to the requirements of the standard. Findings have shown that companies mostly adopt environmental performance measures more directly associated with the legal requirements (legal and other requirements, preparation and emergency response, evaluation of legal and other requirements and environmental aspects). In addition, the following economic sectors that "always" and/or "often" used most measures are: Pulp and Paper/Furniture/Wood, Textiles, Metals and Electrical/Electrical and Electronic.

Keywords: *environmental performance indicators, EPI, environmental management systems, EMS, ISO 14001.*

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