

Establishing environmental competence and improvement

Competence Management System

CMS Overview

The overall aim of the Competence Management System (CMS) standard is compliance with the Environmental Permit and to support environmental protection. The competence of people at each level and across the organisation whose work affects this protection is essential.

A competence management system enables operators to demonstrate that they have the 'technical competence' required to satisfy regulatory requirements and comply with the environmental permit for waste activities.

Requirements for CMS

CMS is a management system based standard developed by Energy & Utility Skills and approved by Defra, SEPA, the EA, the Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales as a method of demonstrating technical competence of permitted waste sites.

It can be used by any company, within any industry, who is required to demonstrate technical competence for their environmental permit.

The standard specifies requirements for a competence management system to enable an organisation to develop and implement a policy and objectives which take into account legal requirements and compliance with the environmental permit. The success of the system depends on commitment from all levels and functions of the organisation.

Key Features & Benefits

The implementation of an effective CMS helps you drive environmental improvements across your organisation. Features include:

- Integrates with existing management systems such as environment, occupational health & safety, and quality management systems, or can be used as a standalone management system
- It is officially approved and recognised by key stakeholders in the UK as a method of demonstrating technical competence
- Assists in organising employees more effectively and productively by deploying them in a way that ensures site operation is always efficient
- Takes into account vocational and academic qualifications, as well as internal and external training, based on National Occupational Standards (NOS) where applicable
- Increases competence by moving from a purely individual to a more holistic corporate approach and embedding competency throughout the permitted operations
- Satisfies the competence requirements contained within an environmental permit
- Provides an alternative to the existing Certificate of Technical Competence (COTC) system, WAMITAB scheme.

How we can help

At LRQA, we take time to understand the needs and unique circumstances of our clients and their businesses, to act with judgement, sensitivity and care.

Assessment

We specialise in management systems compliance including gap analysis, assessment and certification, all underpinned with expert advice designed to meet the needs of your industry. We explore every problem thoroughly with exact, analytical precision.

Gap analysis

This assessor-delivered activity enables you to focus on critical, high risk or weak areas of your system prior to your formal assessment visit. Whether you are in the early stages of implementing your management system or are looking for a 'dry run', the scope can be decided by you.

Certification

This is typically a two stage process, consisting of a system appraisal and an initial assessment, the duration of which is dependent on the size and nature of your organisation.

Training

We provide practical client training courses, led by trained and qualified tutors. Many of our courses are endorsed by relevant professional bodies and based on our experience of assessing management systems. We offer both public and in-house training services including customised training solutions through our business improvement services.

Impartiality

We maintain our impartiality by proactively managing conflicts of interest across all LRQA businesses including those which may exist between consultancy and third-party certification services.

Why choose LRQA?

We're here to help negotiate a rapidly changing world, by working with you to manage and mitigate the risks you face. From compliance to data-driven supply chain transformation, it's our job to help you shape the future, rather than letting it shape you. We do this by delivering:

Strategic vision

Our technical know-how, sector expertise and innovative, forward-thinking approach will help you meet the challenges of today – and become a safer, more secure, and sustainable organisation tomorrow.

Technical expertise

Our people are sector experts. They bring with them a clear understanding of your specific challenges, standards and requirements – then deploy deep knowledge of certification, brand assurance, food safety, cybersecurity, inspection and training to help you meet them.

Global capability

Operating in more than 120 countries, recognised by over 30 accreditation bodies worldwide, and covering almost every sector, we can help you manage risk, drive improvement and build credibility with stakeholders around the globe.

Effective partnership

Every business is unique. That's why our experts work with you, to fully understand your needs and goals, and work out how we can best support them.

Fresh perspective

We have led the way in shaping our industry and continue to take every opportunity to collaborate with clients and pioneer new ideas, services and innovation.

Get in touch

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