



Introduction to EMAS for top suppliers

London Fire & Emergency Planning Authority

Supplier Engagement Focus.....

Lead by example on a specific issue with top suppliers by spend.

Early in 2007 London Fire held a Forum with their suppliers to introduce EMAS certification to their top-spending suppliers as part of London Fire commitment to EMAS certification. Having recently gone through the EMAS accreditation, London Fire wished to encourage their suppliers by leading by example.

Why.....

To comply with London Fire EMAS Objective 2, target 6 which states:

“Development of dialogue with key suppliers to enhance Environmental Performance within contract.”

To demonstrate the Authority’s commitment to the GLA strategy which states:

‘A green city which makes efficient use of natural resources and energy, eco-friendly design and construction methods, recycles waste and creates new green industries.’

How.....

- The top 10 suppliers by spend were invited to attend a forum introducing Environmental Management Systems and accreditation schemes. The agenda covered:
 - Why: London Fire’s basis for considering sustainability
 - Timescale for implementing their EMS
 - Awareness raising, communications and training
 - How the EMS was implemented and commitment levels
 - Achievements
- A certification Body presented on what is involved in achieving accreditation to BS 8555 which breaks ISO 14,001 into six implementation levels.
- Follow up emails with presentations from the day ‘Suppliers Learn by example’

Event outcomes

- Increased awareness of environmental management systems within the supply chain.
 - The cleaning contractor is looking to trial a more environmentally friendly citrus based product, thus helping to create improvements beyond specified standard.
 - One company going through the process to get ISO 14,001 accreditation, their programme of change has identified potential environmental and financial savings.
- Linking different suppliers provided added benefit in sharing knowledge of different sectors such as vehicles, cleaning and clothing.
- Suppliers attending could gain credibility and competitive advantage in future tenders through increased knowledge and understanding of what London Fire wants from its suppliers.





- Improved implementation London Fire policy.
- An EMS provides a process for suppliers to identify impacts and mitigate them, thus increasing their ability to head in the same direction London Fire is pursuing.
- Delivery of performance data for internal and external reporting by suppliers will be easier to gather.

Lesson learned.....

- Getting the right person to attend the event can be difficult with an open invite, it is best to specify the job title of the most appropriate attendees.
- Follow up and support is required to ensure interest generated on the day turns to actions. This can lead to improved delivery of sustainability within contracts and exceeding specifications.
- Securing supplier interest can be difficult, more leverage is gained with suppliers whose contracts are due for renewal, particularly where it is clear that having an EMS will be considered favourably and from; suppliers whose contracts have specified or set a Key Performance Indicator to implement an EMS.
- Promoting the uptake of such schemes carries more weight when your organisation has already gone through the process and has the added benefit of greater knowledge and example that can be passed on.

Resource Requirements.....

Staff time: 2 days, 2 staff.

Cost: The only financial impact was the catering costs as in house London Fire meeting facilities were used.

Planning: Approximately 2 months prior to the event.

What next.....

London Fire are looking to increase the number of suppliers that have participated in awareness raising on EMAS. The exercise was definitively successful and it is planned to be repeated with another group of suppliers in the near future.

Contact

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