Certify Your Energy Management System

ISO 50001:2011

The Need to Manage Energy

Ever increasing costs of energy is a reality for organizations across all industries. Evaluating energy consumption in order to maintain or reduce energy costs, as well as, contributing the protection of the environment and depleting resources, has become a critical business objective.

For many, responsible energy management is not merely a good business practice, but a requirement for a growing number. As legislation passes around the globe, laws, regulations, and requirements often vary from country to country. This situation can be troublesome for large companies with locations in multiple countries. Certification to ISO 50001, an international standard, helps to remedy this situation. Compliance to local regulation can be seamless when all parts of the organization operate under the same internationally recognized framework.

Experts of energy management came together, from more than 60 countries, to develop ISO 50001, the standard that provides the framework to manage energy performance for industrial plants, commercial facilities, or all parts of the organization.

What is ISO 50001 ?

The actual description of the standard is ISO 50001:2011, Energy management systems – Requirements with guidance for use, is a voluntary International Standard developed by ISO (International Organization for Standardization).

ISO 50001 provides organizations the requirements for energy management systems (EnMS). ISO 50001 can be implemented individually or integrated with other management system standards.

The standard itself does not set specific use or compliance goals. It is a process-driven approach that enables organizations to better set their own goals and manage progress and resources. Any business that consumes a large amount of energy can benefit, whether manufacturers, services, buildings, or logistics.

What is the basis of ISO 50001?

ISO 50001 is based on the ISO management system model familiar to organizations worldwide whom have already implemented standards such as ISO 9001 (quality), OHSAS 18001 (health & safety), and ISO 14001 (environmental).

In particular, ISO 50001 follows the Plan-Do-Check-Act process for continual improvement of the energy management system.

These characteristics enable organizations to integrate energy management with their overall efforts to improve quality, environmental management, and other processes addressed by their management systems.

ISO 50001 provides a framework of requirements enabling organizations to:

- Develop a policy for more efficient use of energy
- Define targets and objectives to meet the energy policy
- Use data to better understand and make decisions concerning energy use
- Measure the results
- Review the effectiveness of the energy policy
- Continually improve energy management

What are the benefits of the ISO 50001 ?

ISO 50001 can provide public and private sector organizations with management strategies to increase energy efficiency, reduce costs, and improve energy performance.

The standard is intended to provide organizations with a recognized framework for integrating energy performance into their management practices. Organizations will have access to a single, harmonized standard for implementation across the entire organization with a logical and consistent methodology for identifying and implementing improvements.

The standard is designed to provide the following :

- Improve the return on investment of energy-consuming assets
- Establish a basis for measuring and managing energy-use and GHG emissions
- Facilitate communications and planning for the improved use of energy resources
- Create a framework for promoting and implementing best practices
- Build a financial model for investing in new, energy efficient, low GHG emitting technologies
- Align energy use with other management system objectives, such as quality, environmental, and financial
- Engage the entire organization in better energy use and lower GHG emissions
- Meet government and industry contractual requirements for efficient use of energy
- Capture competitive advantage in the marketplace

The Plan-Do-Check-Act Approach of your EnMS

Based on the Plan-Do-Check-Act continual improvement framework, ISO 50001 incorporates energy management into routine business practices described and depicted here:
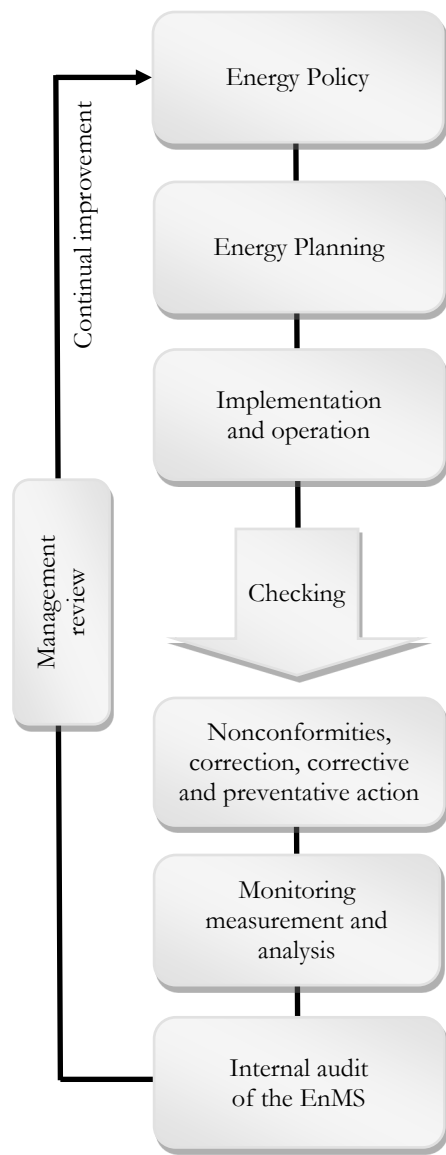
Plan: Perform an energy review to determine a baseline and energy performance indicators (EnPIs). Establish objectives, targets, and action plans that will result in opportunities to improve you organizations energy performance and energy policy.

Do: Implement and operate your EnMS action plans.

Check: Analyze measurements of the processes and characteristics of your EnMS that determine energy performance to that of your energy policy and objectives. Report the results.

Act: Be proactive in continually improving energy performance and your Energy Management System.

Energy Management Model

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