



EHS Management System Solutions for the Chemical Industry Sector



This series of factsheets highlights our expertise in Environment, Health, and Safety Management and covers the following topics:

- Building the Business Case for Environmental Management Systems
- Environmental Management Systems for Federal Facilities
- High-Performance EHS Business Model
- Integrating EHS Management Systems
- Meeting Environmental Management Systems Challenges
- Public Sector Environmental Management Services
- **EHS Management System Solutions for the Chemical Industry Sector**

The Responsible Care® codes of management practices are the standard that most chemical companies today use to manage environmental, health, and safety (EHS) issues. Due to the constant evolution of business values and expectations, companies within the chemical industry agreed to adopt this internationally-recognized approach. Now the American Chemistry Council (ACC) and the Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturers Association (SOCMA) are promoting the Responsible Care Management System (RCMS) for managing EHS issues. RCMS, an enhanced management system framework within Responsible Care, follows the systematic approach of other similar management processes, focusing on reducing risks and improving efficiency by integrating EHS performance.

ICF Consulting helps clients improve EHS management efficiency by building solutions that maximize the value of existing EHS processes—enabling clients to gain business value through enhanced EHS management effectiveness and efficiency. The current challenge lies in the capability of companies within the chemical industry to adopt the RCMS framework by leveraging current Responsible Care processes.

Our Approach

ICF Consulting is a leader in developing and implementing organizational, goal-driven, integrated management systems solutions. We assist organizations in achieving EHS performance improvement by applying our management systems expertise and a wide array of competencies in EHS Management Systems to all aspects of a business. We focus on leveraging existing management system attributes to better align and integrate the various business systems and management tools an organization already has in place.

Performance Improvement through Increased Effectiveness and Efficiency

Improved management performance relies on an organization's ability to support the transfer of ownership and accountability for operations to line personnel. The solution may vary from the implementation of a few customized system elements to implementing all of the elements that constitute a RCMS or RC 14001 compliant EHS management system. Fundamental to our client-specific practical solutions is employee participation. Obtaining employee "buy-in" to the management system increases an organization's performance improvements.

Employee Involvement in Risk-based Approach

Sound EHS systems develop from an organization's clear understanding of the risks associated with its products, processes, and activities of its operations. Early involvement of a company's experts in identifying hazards and risk controls ensures a solid EHS strategy. Employee involvement in developing the EHS system and risk management procedures are effective in instilling values in an organization toward increased EHS performance.

Third-party Certification Readiness

Our team of experts supports organizations with the development of action plans and communication strategies for achieving third-party RCMS or RC14001 certification readiness. The end result of our proposed solution is to transfer ownership for operating the RCMS to "line" personnel. By leveraging existing processes, ICF Consulting's EHS solutions do not have the incremental costs often associated with additional human resources necessary to support a more complex system.

Metrics for Calculating EHS Performance

ICF Consulting's team includes experts in the field of performance management who assist clients in establishing optimal performance metrics based on the values organizations are trying to achieve. ICF Consulting evaluates the capacity of an organization's monitoring program (including internal RCMS audits) to measure progress in achieving established goals. We assist organizations in realigning audit programs to better reflect company values.

Featured Projects

EHS Management Systems Assessment for a Major Chemical Company

ICF Consulting assessed a new EHS organization and management system implemented by a major chemical company. We conducted extensive document reviews and interviews with the EHS staff at all levels, and visited numerous plants to observe the client's operating EHS organization and the issues it faced. We presented the CEO and COO with numerous program changes and a more appropriate organizational framework for EHS management, and subsequently helped implement them.

Stewardship/Outreach Support

ICF provided technical and meeting support to the Chlorine Chemistry Council's (CCC) Product Stewardship Task Group. Support included tracking international eco-labelling programs and eco-labelling activities of international organizations (e.g., the World Trade Organization), summarizing case studies and "lessons learned" from multi-stakeholder initiatives to manage environmental problems, researching policy positions and technical information, attending work group meetings, and preparing agendas and minutes for both small meetings and larger multi-stakeholder workshops.

Development of Product Stewardship Guiding Document

ICF Consulting provided technical expertise to the Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturers Association's (SOCMA) Product Stewardship Subcommittee in the development of a guidance document for small and large chemical companies that are implementing the Responsible Care product stewardship code.

Development of RCMS Framework

ICF Consulting has supported NOVA Chemicals' Responsible Care (RC) audit program for several years and is currently assisting the corporate function of NOVA Chemicals with the alignment of its existing RC program, to satisfy the requirements of the American Chemistry Council's (ACC) RCMS framework. The approach primarily focuses on leveraging existing processes, making changes to current practices only where required, and ensuring that the revised processes will create business values for the organization. When this phase is completed, the corporate RCMS framework is planned to be implemented at operating sites to ensure consistency of approach.

EHS Management System Assessment and Organization

ICF Consulting was asked to conduct an independent assessment of its newly reorganized environmental, health, and safety management systems, and evaluate the impact of forthcoming OSHA process safety management regulations. We visited several of the client's facilities and conducted numerous interviews to gain an understanding of the client's environmental, health, and safety resources and management. We provided the client with a comprehensive assessment of its environmental, health, and safety organization and management systems, and several specific recommendations for improvement and for compliance with the impending OSHA regulations.

Chemical Industry EMS Support for the Performance Track Assistance Program (PTAP), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

ICF Consulting is providing recommendations to trade associations in the chemical industry sector for enhancing the effectiveness of their EMS guidance materials and conforming to EPA National Environmental Performance Track EMS criteria. The project includes the review of American Chemistry Council (ACC) and SOCMA Responsible Care documents. Future assignments will include the review of ACC's most recent document—RC14001.

About Our Staff

At ICF Consulting, we provide innovative EHS solutions based on our staff's expertise. We maintain a cadre of seasoned professionals that allows us to assemble the best team for each project, including experts in:

- Business Strategy and Finance
- Operations and Performance Management
- Chemical, Civil, and Environmental Engineering
- Environmental and Analytical Chemistry
- Environmental and Safety Management
- Hydrogeology, Geology, and Ecology
- Industrial Hygiene and Environmental Health
- Toxicology and Epidemiology
- Transportation and Process Safety

About ICF Consulting

ICF Consulting is a leading management, technology, and policy consulting firm. Drawing upon extensive industry knowledge, distinguished professionals, and innovative analytics, the firm develops solutions to complex energy, environment, homeland security, emergency management, community development, and transportation issues. ICF Consulting's approach to these issues is strengthened by its expertise in information technology, organizational improvement, program management, and communications. Since 1969, ICF Consulting has been serving major corporations, government at all levels, and multinational institutions. More than 1,000 employees serve these clients from key business centers in the Americas, Europe, and Asia Pacific.

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