

BS 8555 STEMS (Steps to Environmental Management Systems)

Requirements for the phased implementation of your environmental management system (EMS)

This scheme implements the guidance of British Standard BS 8555 – ‘Guidance to the phased implementation of an environmental management system including the use of environmental performance indicators’.

The scheme involves the assessment and recognition (by a Certificate of Achievement) of each phase of the implementation of an EMS as laid down in BS 8555.

The six phases of BS 8555 STEMS (Steps to Environmental Management Systems) are:

- Commitment and establishing the baseline
- Identifying and ensuring compliance with legal and other requirements
- Developing objectives, targets and programmes
- Implementation and operation of the EMS
- Checking, auditing and review
- EMS acknowledgement

Gain the benefits of an environmental management system (EMS), spread the cost and resource impact of implementation and gain recognition as you progress.

With BS 8555 STEMS your organisation is provided with:

- A clear framework and step by step approach to developing and implementing a full EMS which is particularly useful for companies without specialist resources
- A performance-based approach to managing environmental issues with clear signposts to the decisions expected and the criteria that need to be met
- Flexibility on how you progress to a full EMS. You can be assessed one phase at a time or group a number of phases into one assessment (although they must be completed in sequence)
- Flexibility on how quickly to progress through the phases within a maximum period of two years between each phase assessment (a re-assessment will be performed after 12 months to ensure the current phase requirements continue to be met)
- Recognition and independent verification of progress and achievements relating to EMS implementation and environmental performance