



Abu Dhabi Environment, Health and Safety Management System Regulatory Framework (EHSMS)

Code of Practice

AD EHSMS CoP 07

– Environmental, Health and Safety Impact Assessment (EHSIA) Requirements

Version 1.2

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الوكالة البيئية - أبوظبي
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1. Aims and Intent

1.1 Aims

- (a) The aims of this CoP are to:
- (i) provide a practical approach to undertaking Environmental, Health and Safety Impact Assessment (EHSIA);
 - (ii) ensure a systematic approach to EHSIA is undertaken through the Emirate;
 - (iii) EHSIA's drive continuous improvement in the management of EHS to achieve the best EHS outcome having regard to the social and economic development of the Emirate; and
 - (iv) ensure EHSIA issues are addressed through strategic planning.

1.2 Intent

- (a) The intent of this document is to:
- (i) develop and promote Emirate wide awareness of the process of obtaining environment and occupational health and safety approval for a new developments and/or where there will be significant modification and/or expansion to an existing development;
 - (ii) provide detailed guidance to nominated entities within the Emirate, on the new procedures that shall be adopted when carrying out EHSIA for new developments and/or where there will be significant modification and/or expansion to an existing development;
- (b) The intent of an EHSIA is to:
- (i) investigate and predict the effects of a development projects on the environment, health and safety before any decision is made to go ahead with the development;
 - (ii) introduce changes into the design process of a development project;
 - (iii) ensure that all stakeholders involved - the developer, the government, people living and working in the area and the community - understands the likely effects of the development; in this way it ensures that the final decision on the development project is taken with full knowledge of the environmental, health and safety consequences.

2. Application and Implementation

2.1 Application

- (a) EHSIA is the term applied to the systematic examination of the likely impacts of development proposals and projects on the environment and human health prior to the beginning of any activity.
- (b) EHSIA's represent a key component in the decision making process and aim to facilitate the reduction of or avoidance of negative impacts on the environment, human health and enhancement of the positive impacts.

- (c) Nominated entities utilize an EHSIA to demonstrate the nature and scale of their project, the affected environment, human health impacts, and the likely impacts and measures that would be taken to reduce/monitor these impacts. EHSIA's assess plans, projects, programs or policies before they are implemented.

2.2 Advantages of EHSIA

- (a) The advantages of EHSIA are that it can lead to positive gains for the workforce, the community, the environment and for the developer. This is because it provides a means of:
- (i) increasing knowledge and understanding of the environment and impacts on human health;
 - (ii) resolving conflicts between developer and the community;
 - (iii) considering wider policy and resource issues (sustainability);
 - (iv) investigating alternatives; and
 - (v) achieving a more effective development of the Emirate.
- (b) EHSIA's assist the Competent Authority and/or Sector Regulatory Authorities in planning and decision making, these include:
- (i) to identify hazards to the environment and human health from the development being proposed;
 - (ii) to reduce or eliminate the potential risks to the environment and human health arising from these hazards and to undertake risk management on the remaining risks as part of this process;
 - (iii) to identify, and where feasible strengthen, the ways in which the proposed development can promote and enhance the environment and/or human health;
 - (iv) to identify and address underlying social, environmental and economic impacts of the development that will have both direct and indirect impacts on the environment and human health; and
 - (v) to reduce or eliminate health inequities occurring as a result of the proposal.

2.3 Form of an EHSIA

- (c) An EHSIA is one integrated document, divided into two parts:
- (i) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS); and
 - (ii) A Health and Safety Impact Assessment; and (HSIA).
- (d) The EIS is the new name for what is commonly referred to as an Environmental Impact assessment (EIA).
- (e) The HSIA is the new name for what is commonly referred to as a Safety Management Plan.

2.4 Authorities Responsible for EHSIA

- (a) EAD is responsible for the requesting, reviewing and approving the environmental component of the EHSIA.
- (b) The Sector Regulatory Authorities are responsible for the requesting, reviewing and approving the health and safety component of the EHSIA.

3. General Requirements

3.1 EHSIA

- (a) An EHSIA shall:
 - (a) address each of the life cycle phases i.e. project conception, design, tender, construction, commissioning, operation, decommissioning, abandonment and site restoration of a project.
 - (b) predict the environmental and health and safety impacts of any development project.
 - (c) assessing the severity and likelihood of the identified positive and negative impacts;
 - (d) determining whether these are direct or indirect impacts, and
 - (e) assessing the distribution of impacts; and
 - (f) recommend mitigation measures.
- (b) Recommendations measures shall:
 - (i) maximise positive health impacts and minimise negative health impacts; and
 - (ii) engage decision makers so that they consider EHS impacts in their deliberations and decisions.
- (c) An EHSIA is one integrated document, divided into two parts:
 - (i) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS); and
 - (ii) A Health and Safety Impact Assessment; and (HSIA).
- (d) The requirements for EIS and HSIA. Outlined below, will also need to be addressed.

3.2 When is an EHSIA Required?

- (a) Projects and/or facilities that before construction, modification, operation or expansion require an EHSIA as a part of the Environmental Permitting Application process are listed in Federal Environmental Law 24 / 1999 and in the document *Technical Guidance Document for Submission of Environmental Impact Assessment Report - 2009*.
- (b) The level of environmental assessment required and the minimum mandatory criteria for the environmental component of the EHSIA are listed in the document *Technical Guidance Document for Submission of Environmental Impact Assessment Report - 2009*.

3.3 What are the Requirements of an EIS?

- (a) The EIS shall be consistent with the aims of the EIS review process:
- (i) to provide a source of information from which interested individuals and groups may gain an understanding of the proposal, the need for the proposal, the alternatives, the environment which would be affected, the impacts that may occur and the measures to be taken to minimise these impacts;
 - (ii) to provide a forum for public consultation and informed comment on the proposal; and
 - (iii) to provide a framework within which decision-makers may consider the environmental aspects of the proposal in parallel with social, economic, technical and other factors.
- (b) The EIS section of the EHSIA:
- (i) shall be formatted to clearly identify the environmental section of the document;
 - (ii) shall follow the preferred Table of Contents for EHSIA's set out in the document *Technical Guidance Document for Submission of Environmental Impact Assessment Report – 2009*;
 - (iii) shall consider the extent to which the expected effects of the development are consistent with the goals of the Emirate;
 - (iv) shall assess all Federal and Emirate, Environmental legal requirements, including relevant policies, plans and standards;
 - (v) shall report on the environmental baseline at the project site;
 - (vi) shall detail the expected environmental impacts of the development;
 - (vii) shall clearly list the proponents commitments to meet conditions to avoid, mitigate, satisfactorily manage and/or control any potentially adverse impacts of the development on the environment;
 - (viii) design will be flexible enough to incorporate changes to minimize any impacts highlighted by this evaluation or by post-operation monitoring programs;
 - (ix) shall state the proponent's commitments to meet conditions (if any) placed on any approval that may be given to avoid, mitigate or satisfactorily control and manage any potential adverse impacts of the development on the environment; and
 - (x) shall included any other information required by EAD.
- (c) EAD is responsible for reviewing and approving the environmental component of the EHSIA.

3.4 When is a HSIA Required?

- (a) Development projects and/or facilities that before construction, modification, operation or expansion require an EHSIA as a part of the Environmental Permitting Application process are listed in Federal Environmental Law 24 / 1999 and in the document *Technical Guidance Document for Submission of Environmental Impact Assessment Report - 2009*.

- (b) The level of health and safety assessment required is to be commensurate with the potential impact the activities of the project can have on the workforce and / or the community.

3.5 What are the Requirements of a HSIA?

- (a) The HSIA shall be consistent with the aims of the HSIA review process:
- (i) to assess projects, plans, programs or policies before they are implemented;
 - (ii) to predict the health and safety impacts of these proposals, including:
 - (1) assessing the severity and likelihood of the identified positive and negative impacts;
 - (2) determining whether these are direct or indirect impacts; and
 - (3) assessing the distribution of impacts.
 - (iii) recommends mitigation measures:
 - (1) maximizing positive health impacts and minimizing negative health impacts; and
 - (2) engage decision makers so that they consider health impacts and the determinants of health in their deliberations.
- (b) The HSIA Section of the EHSIA:
- (i) shall be formatted to clearly identify the health and safety section of the document;
 - (ii) shall follow the preferred Table of Contents for EHSIA's set out in the document *Technical Guidance Document for Submission of Environmental Impact Assessment Report – 2009*.
 - (iii) shall consider the extent to which the expected effects of the development are consistent with the goals of the Emirate;
 - (iv) shall assess all Federal and Emirate, Environmental legal requirements, including relevant policies, plans and standards;
 - (v) shall detail the expected human health and safety impacts of the development - primarily on the workforce - but shall also include impacts on the wider community;
 - (vi) shall list the nominated entities commitments to meet conditions to avoid, mitigate, satisfactorily manage and/or control any potentially adverse health and safety impacts of the development;
 - (vii) design will be flexible enough to incorporate changes to minimize any impacts highlighted by this evaluation or by post-operation monitoring programs; and
 - (viii) will provide any information required by the Relevant Authorities.
- (c) The relevant Sector Regulatory Authority is the responsible for reviewing and approving the health and safety component of the EHSIA.
- (d) A suggested list of topics is included in Appendix A of this CoP.

Appendix A

Possible topic to be included in Safety Management Plans:

- EHS policy statement, targets and objectives;
- Description of scope of works;
- Agreed roles and responsibilities for relevant personnel;
- Management of contractors;
- Risk management strategy, including Standard Operating Procedures, Codes of Practice, Risk Assessments, Work Method Statements, Permit-To-Work Systems including control measures to be implemented;
- Procedures to ensure the control measures are successfully implemented and how the effectiveness of the proposed control measures will be monitored and reviewed;
- Training, competency and induction plans;
- Workforce consultation arrangements;
- EHS performance monitoring program;
- Management of plant and equipment;
- Management of inspections and audits;
- First aid procedures, including the names of qualified first aid personnel;
- Incident reporting and investigation procedures
- Specific site rules;
- Site emergency procedures and contact numbers;
- EHS Officer / Representatives names and contact details;
- Legal and regulatory requirements;
- Personal protective equipment requirements;
- Hazardous substances management;
- Material storage and handling management;
- Fire protection;
- Site security management;
- Noise management;
- Waste management;
- Asbestos and other hazardous materials;
- Traffic management;
- Manual handling;
- Health surveillance;
- Welfare and Site accommodation;
- EHS communication;
- Housekeeping;
- Heat stress program;
- Isolation (tag-out, lock-out);
- Working at heights; and
- Site layout plans and diagrams.

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Document Status

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