

Registration of Environmental Consultants

What is Environmental Consultant Registration?

The Environment Agency—Abu Dhabi (EAD) undertakes the registration of environmental consultancy offices (ECOs) working in the Abu Dhabi Emirate. Registered ECOs are permitted to work in a range of areas of environmental expertise and are classified based on various factors, including staff qualifications, project experience, and the number of completed projects or assignments.

When is it required?

Registration as an EAD-approved ECO is required before a consultant can prepare environmental studies and reports requested by EAD on behalf of project proponents. An ECO must also be registered with EAD in order to perform monitoring, auditing, and remediation activities associated with a project or facility and to consult in health, safety, and environmental management areas. Note that project designers and project managers are prohibited under EAD policy from rendering environmental consulting services to the projects they are designing or managing.

Why is it required?

Federal Law No. 24 of 1999 for the Protection and Development of the Environment requires the assessment of environmental impacts of all projects and establishments. In order to ensure that such environmental assessments are conducted by suitably qualified professionals, Administrative Resolution No. 7 of 2006 was issued to regulate the accreditation and registration of consulting offices operating in the fields of environmental and occupational safety in the Abu Dhabi Emirate. As the competent authority for implementation of Federal Law No. 24 within the Emirate, EAD is responsible for the registration of ECOs to ensure that the offices have sufficient experience to provide environmental services in their nominated fields.

Who applies for it?

The ECO applying for registration with EAD must complete an application form and submit it to EAD Customer Service, along with all required documentation. An online registration system is currently being developed and will be available in the future. The owner, local representative, or authorized manager of the ECO may appoint an authorized designee to communicate with EAD regarding all application-related issues in the applicant's absence.

As part of the application, the ECO must select at least one of the specified environmental fields in which it seeks to gain registration and be able to demonstrate work experience in the nominated field, either through evidence of completed projects or evidence of ongoing project work.

What happens next?

EAD will assess the application and attached documents and will notify the ECO of any missing documents or other information required to process the application.

If the application is approved, a certificate is issued with the designated classification of the ECO (e.g., Class A, B, or C). The newly registered office is added to the list of EAD-approved ECOs and may commence work within the approved specialisations. If the ECO is not satisfied with the classification, a petition for reconsideration of the specialisations approved and/or the class designation can be submitted.

Renewal applications should be submitted within 6 months after the expiration date of the registration. In addition, the standard assessment criteria for ECO registration, for applications for the Environmental Studies and Environmental Management Plan areas, are based on the quality of environmental reports or studies previously submitted to EAD in these work areas.

Further information?

For further information, refer to the *Standard Operating Procedure for Registration of Environmental Consultancy Offices in the Abu Dhabi Emirate*, visit the EAD Web site, or contact EAD Customer Service.