

# Strategic

Spring 2014

Your Strategies for the Environment Newsletter



## Compliance

The term compliance has an ominous tone, casting its shadow over the workplace, and seemingly put in place solely to make one's life difficult. But compliance doesn't have to be a four-letter word: building compliance into task and job descriptions & training can ensure that all necessary requirements are met, without that painful scramble just before the annual audit or surprise regulatory inspection.

Whether the concern is with legislation, industry regulations, or corporate standards, compliance should be recognized as an important part of every business's Best Management Practices. Remember, it's less expensive and far more efficient to incorporate compliance as part of daily management practices, than it is to remedy any shortcomings after the fact.

In a study of 46 multinational organizations, the **Poneman Institute** (renowned independent researchers, specializing in privacy, data protection, and information security) learned that compliance activities cost a total of \$3.5 million, whereas the cost of non-compliance reached almost \$9.4 million (these figures are a total for all 46 organizations, who all had both compliance and non-compliance costs in that twelve month period).

These non-compliance figures include reduced productivity and complete business disruption, remediation time & costs, to legal and other settlement costs, fees and fines. What they don't include are the intangible costs that may come later, such as loss to reputation, greater regulatory oversight, and increased government scrutiny.

The study infers that companies that invested more resources in compliance management found that they were rewarded with lower non-compliance costs, as they were able to evade a number of potential ramifications associated with non-compliance. In addition to lower non-compliance costs, it was noted that organizations that adopted an atmosphere of

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(Continued from previous page) compliance were found to be more conscious of security and privacy issues. A key tool to reducing the total cost of compliance throughout these organizations was the institution of ongoing internal compliance audits, allowing companies to have greater control over compliance 'burden'.

For further information on this study, and the importance of proactively managing compliance, please click on the following link: [True Cost of Compliance](#)

Thinking of introducing an environmental, health & safety, or quality management system into your company? Have you been tasked with implementation of a management system? If you've already implemented a compliance system, doesn't it pay to ensure that you stay compliant with the programs and guidelines that you yourself designed? Recognize that your operation has issues, but not really positive what they are? Not sure where to start? Strategies for the Environment is here to help guide you through.



## Important Things to Remember

Element 21 of the latest revisions to the DWQMS Standard mandates that *"the Operating Authority shall strive to continually improve the effectiveness of its Quality Management System through the use of corrective actions"*.

What does this mean for your DWQMS? It means that there will be a stronger expectation of continual improvement. Your management system cannot stay stagnant and your corrective action process must be robust. Drinking water systems will now have to incorporate effective and systematic corrective action processes into their DWQMS, continually monitoring for areas of concern, and documenting them along with any improvements made. Strategies for the Environment's *Root Cause and Corrective Action* course will ensure that your DWQMS remains compliant to these new requirements. In addition, our *Continual Improvement* course will help you get to the next level.



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## New Anti-Spam Legislation

Canada has new Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL) coming into effect as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014.

This new legislation requires that **Strategies for the Environment** requests and receives your consent to continue sending you electronic communications, such as this newsletter. If you no longer wish to receive information about important topics such as ISO certification and compliance, DWQMS and auditing, you may unsubscribe by following the link at the bottom of this message.

If you wish to continue to receive our newsletter, you don't need to do anything – **Strategies for the Environment** will continue sending you the informative and topical communiques you've come to expect from us! Or, if you'd like to change the kind of information that we send you, you can define your preferences and we'll make sure to only send you information on the topics that most interest you!

## \*\*OH&S Deadline fast approaching!

July 1 is the deadline by which all workers and supervisors, regardless of size or sector of workplace, need to have completed basic Occupational Health & Safety awareness training. This training includes (but is not exclusive to):

- the rights and duties of workers, supervisors, employers, H&S representatives, and a joint H&S committee under the Act
- how to recognize, assess and control workplace hazards
- possible occupational illnesses, including latency periods

To ensure that your team is doing everything it can to prepare for this deadline and maintain workplace safety, you need to be informed. **Follow this link** to find detailed information as to what is required by your company in order to stay compliant with the Occupational Health & Safety Act!



**Strategies for the Environment** will help your team prepare, implement and maintain your compliance systems:

- Environmental Management Systems – ISO 14001 certification, or compliance with specific local or national legislation
- Quality Management Systems – ISO 9001:2008 certification
- Occupational Health & Safety Management Systems – OHSAS 18001, CSAZ 1000 & ANSI Z10 certifications
- Drinking Water Quality Management Systems – Ontario's Safe Drinking Water Act
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions Monitoring & Management – voluntary, regulatory, or market-based GHG and carbon management strategies

Our audits are conducted by seasoned experts with **strong industry experience**. **Strategies for the Environment** helps keep your organization compliant with standards and regulations, regardless of your size. Contact us for a detailed plan, designed specifically for your organization's needs!

[Send us a note, and the Strategies for the Environment team will guide you through!](#)