

This is not an official USAF publication, but it is written to help communicate the very precise language of EMS to a simple concept level.

DoD, Military, and other CAC holders

Step by step directions:

> AF Portal (My.AF.MIL)

> search ADLS (GoLearn.ADLS.MIL)

> 74 + Miscellaneous

 [Environmental Management System - General Awareness Training](#)

For Contractors/no CAC:

The Environmental Awareness Course Hub (TEACH) site:

<https://usaf.learningbuilder.com>

AFI 32-7001

Environmental
Management
System

ISO 14001 for
AIRMEN

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Your EMS Brief

You - What is this one about?

Me - The most amazing and important thing....

You - Zzzzzzz....

Briefings are boring and mostly awful. This one is definitely in that category. No sugar. No candy coating. This is going to hurt. So let me be brutally brief: you HAVE TO get these small points straight so we can pass the next Inspector General visit - and it can be a surprise visit.

1. All installations have to follow the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) rules.
2. *YOU* are key to that effort.
3. All federal agencies must adopt some form of Environmental Management System (EMS).
4. The DoD has chosen to use Industrial Operations Standards (ISO) 14001 to make sure YOU do YOUR part.

Do I have your attention now? Good.

Let's do this like the boy scouts; repeat after me:

"I PROMISE TO handle garbage responsibly." Weird as this sounds, it is a huge deal. Any trash that is TOXIC,

REACTIVE, IGNITABLE or CORROSIVE is *Hazardous Waste* and a world of hurt will happen to you if you do not take care of Uncle Sam's garbage correctly.

"I PROMISE TO recycle." It isn't a choice or a lifestyle, it is federal law. You will recycle in your office. Paper and cardboard recycling is a must do, not an option. Read the other 14CES pamphlet, it goes over the whole deal.

"I PROMISE TO not pollute water, air, or anything else any more than is absolutely necessary." What? Permission to pollute? Environmental Management is just that. Recognizing the reality of work makes trash, but keeping our amount of waste and pollution to the minimum.

That's it. You are almost done. *Just a little more...*

Now the **"EMS"**y part. To get to the absolute minimum of pollution it takes a lot of thinking. YOU get to think! As a fresh set of eyes to the USAF, or at least here, you probably noticed we do things oddly.

PLEASE **Question Everything.**

Not to your boss - to me. EMS has Unit Environmental Coordinators (UEC) in every squadron and tenant unit. Put the UEC to work by pointing out where the USAF can

save time, money or reduce pollution. The UEC has to meet quarterly with me and confess to all the ideas thrown at them and we check to see if the suggestion is legal, to see if it has already been done, to try it, and approve it. This involves a lot of meetings, research, messages and testing but it does move us forward. To date, this process has reduced the amount of hazardous waste generated at Columbus AFB 96% compared to 1996.

EMS is a process. We follow the rules, keep notes of actions, inspections, and success. Failures too! Plan/Do/Check/Act is the cycle we follow. No process is stagnant. Good can be better. Products or methods that weren't available last year are common now, but your boss may not be aware of them. Yesterdays **NO**, might be tomorrow's great idea. It applies to absolutely EVERYTHING here. Not just maintenance, not just patient care, not just flying. We all consume energy, make trash, and pollute the water and the air. We need to work together to do it less. That is EMS