



Sustainable Supply Chain Program

New York State Pollution Prevention Institute (NYSP2I) assists companies with achieving their Sustainable Supply Chain goals by helping to offset costs associated with greening operations and supply chain

ISO 14001 Environmental Management System Readiness Assessment with a Metal Finishing Manufacturer

Client

Acro Industries, Inc. is a Rochester-based, privately owned, contract metal finishing manufacturer that strives for continuous improvement throughout its business. While Acro has maintained a Quality Management System through ISO 9001 since 1997, pressure from customers regarding conformance to an Environmental Management System (EMS), such as ISO 14001, heightened in 2014.



Opportunity Areas

Acro recognized not only the need to address the pressure from customers, but also the opportunity to differentiate themselves with larger companies that commonly seek sustainable suppliers with ISO certifications. An EMS would also foster Acro's commitment towards continuous improvement through more effective measurement and monitoring techniques, ultimately resulting in opportunities to reduce environmental impacts and operating costs.

Objectives

Like many small and medium-sized companies, Acro does not have a dedicated environmental professional that can prepare the company for conformance to an EMS standard. Thus, Acro requested that NYSP2I help prepare them by conducting a systematic review of processes, procedures and data, in an effort to determine environmental aspects and impacts and their readiness for conformance to the ISO 14001 standard, prior to engaging an ISO practitioner.

Work Performed

NYSP2I reviewed Acro's existing documentation associated with environmental impacts such as waste manifests and energy and water data. Acro's existing policies, procedures and objectives & targets from their quality management system were also reviewed to determine synergies with the EMS standard. Plant layout drawings showing equipment and processes were also reviewed in anticipation NYSP2I's two-day assessment. NYSP2I then conducted an on-site assessment with Acro personnel to further identify activities ("aspects") that create environmental impacts. NYSP2I guided Acro with developing input-output diagrams for distinct processes and an Environmental Aspects Guidance and Rating Chart. A Risk Criteria Matrix tool was developed to identify the significance of the environmental aspects, which then creates the focus for objective & target setting in the EMS. Finally, NYSP2I developed an ISO 14001 Readiness Gap Assessment document for Acro, which details the findings of the assessment and provides recommendations to better prepare them for conformance and certification to the ISO 14001 standard.

Results

Acro is now well positioned to engage their existing ISO practitioner to undertake the next steps towards ISO 14001 EMS certification. Once certified, Acro will maintain the ability to meet customer expectations, retain their current business and ideally grow revenue and additional customers. As a result, Acro anticipates a 10% increase in sales within 3 years, and a 20% increase in customers, ultimately anticipating the creation of approximately 10 new positions.

