ISO 14001:2015 Readiness Assessment and Guided Preparation for Kartesis Industries

Kartesis Industries (Kartesis) is a global metal finishing manufacturer with a facility in Tonawanda, NY that supports the automotive industry.

Challenge
Kartesis was encountering increasing customer demands for the implementation of an ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management System (EMS) in order to do business. Kartesis recognized this as an opportunity to gain competitive positioning as a differentiated supplier and enhance their commitment towards continuous improvement, ultimately reducing environmental impacts and costs.

Solution
The New York State Pollution Prevention Institute (NYSP2I) supported INSYTE Consulting with this project for Kartesis to determine readiness for conformance to the ISO 14001:2015 EMS standard.

The ISO 14001:2015 EMS standard specifies requirements for an organization to develop and implement a policy with objectives regarding its environmental responsibilities. The organization needs to consider compliance obligations and information about significant environmental aspects that the organization can control and influence.

NYSP2I conducted a systematic review of processes, procedures, and data in an effort to determine Kartesis’ readiness for conformance to the ISO 14001:2015 EMS standard. The work included a review of existing documentation and information, an on-site readiness assessment, identification of opportunities for closing the gaps to achieve conformance, and training for internal self-audits.

Results
As a result of the work performed by NYSP2I, documentation was developed including a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis for interested parties, process flow diagrams and input-output diagrams for major operations, an environmental aspect chart with risk analysis for significance determination, data collection and analysis of environmental impacts for objectives and targets, and an internal audit checklist. As this project included a gap assessment, subsequent work will need to be completed by Kartesis to close the identified gaps and strive for continuous improvement.

Since Kartesis is already certified to the ISO/TS 16949 Quality Management System (QMS) standard for the automotive industry, the experience with a QMS, coupled with the existing commitment from top management, will allow for an efficient transition to an EMS. Kartesis requested NYSP2I attend the third-party initial certification audit with their Registrar. Kartesis successfully passed and received certification in October 2017.