

MANAGING ENVIRONMENTAL RISK

Why are Environmental Risks Important?

Every business manages risks in some way; from reducing bad debts to eliminating worker accidents, from retaining commercially sensitive information to product liability.

Unmanaged risk can result in:

- Costly downtime
- Recall, repair and redesign of goods
- Tarnishing of the business image
- Fines and even personal imprisonment

Environmental risks are no different except they are more often ignored and may prove to be more costly.

What are Environmental Risks?

All businesses impact the environment in some way. Environmental risk identifies the extent and frequency of that impact. The cost of an adverse incident may be prohibitive.

Most businesses would incur one if not all of the following types of risk.:

- *Regulation.* Environmental regulation is becoming increasingly prolific. Penalties can involve personal imprisonment.
- *Liquids* Liquids storage especially diesel, fuel oil and lubrication oils are covered by regulation.
- *Waste* Although all businesses are bound by the duty of care it is unusual to find one that fully complies.
- *Packaging.* All businesses that have a turnover of more than £2 million and which handle more than 50t of packaging per year must register.
- *Permissions to operate* Increasingly detailed permissions are required to undertake a range of businesses.
- *Land occupancy* The occupancy / ownership of land inevitably carries environmental liabilities.
- *Emissions* Emission to water, land and air are strictly regulated. Do you know where an emission would go in an accident?



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Managing Environmental Risks

Environmental risk can be effectively managed through the following process:

- *Identification*
- *Prioritisation (According to severity and likelihood of the impact)*
- *Elimination*
- *Reduction*
- *Modification*
- *Insurance*

The Benefits of Managing Environmental Risk

Effectively managed risk will reduce the occurrence of “unpleasant surprises”. This will:

- Limit interruptions to your operations
- Enable more accurate prediction of expenditure and therefore profit
- Limit the tarnishing of the business reputation
- Reduce operational and insurance costs

How We Can Help

An initial risk audit will identify:

- The core activities of the business
- How these are likely to impact on the environment
- Their potential environmental and financial significance
- Mechanisms for reducing the most significant risks.

Christian Environmental Consultants will then work with in-house staff to devise a management system that will effectively control these risks. All businesses are different. Each management system is therefore tailored to meet the activities and aspirations of the individual business.

These procedures can be incorporated into an environmental management system that may be accredited to ISO 14001 to publicly demonstrate your environmental credentials.

**CALL US TO ARRANGE
A NO COMMITMENT VISIT
TO YOUR PREMISES**

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