

ENDS Special Reports

## **Environmental Certification 2015**

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This editorial synopsis must not be amended by anyone other than the Editor.

The following feature articles are planned (this list is provisional):

1) Introduction

Environmental certification schemes for management practices, techniques and products have spread far and wide into environmental management in a sign of true mainstreaming of green issues into standard business practices. The future is likely to see even more of the same.

2) Environmental management systems

Led by the well known ISO 14001 standard, environment and related management systems are widely used. Organisations serious about environmental management tend to achieve certification for their EMS. The field is still evolving, with new standards appearing, now in energy as well as environmental management.

3) ISO 14001 focus

The granddaddy of environmental certifications is coming up for significant revisions that will appreciably change its impacts on business

4) Carbon management

After an early spate of interest, corporate carbon management fell out of the headlines for a while. But the imperative for companies to better understand their greenhouse emissions and to manage them down remains extremely strong. Existing and new certification schemes are emerging to help.

5) Product labelling

Certification of product environmental benefits can be a valuable marketing benefit for manufacturers and brands. But especially in fast moving consumer goods the competition for space on packaging can be intense and the public interest in sustainability labelling fickle.

6) Sustainable forest products focus

Led by competing schemes FSC and the PEFC, certification of sustainability has become mainstream in the paper and wood products sectors. A health proportion of sales in some segments now carries one or both of the labels. Some retailers are moving to 100% usage for relevant products.

#### 7) MCERTS

MCERTS, the certification scheme for environmental monitoring techniques, is a key element underpinning industrial environmental regulation, and a foundation stone for high standards in the environmental monitoring equipment supply industries.