Environmental Aspects

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Environmental Aspects: The Basics

The identification of environmental aspects is an important step towards recognizing their impacts on our planet. This proves helpful in setting and formulating objectives, targets, and other programs that may be directed towards solving environmental problems.

1. Definition of Environmental Aspect

Environmental Aspect is an element of an organization's activities, products or services that can interact with the environment. There are two types of environmental aspects:

- (i) **Direct Environmental Aspect** Activities over which a company can be expected to have an influence and control. For example, emissions from processes.
- (ii) **Indirect Environmental Aspect** Actual or Potential activities over which the organization can be expected to have an influence, but no control. For example, supply chain controlled aspects, customer controlled aspects, aspects managed elsewhere within the same company.

2. Identification of Environmental Aspects

- (a) Identify Activities, Services and Products.
- (b) Draw up an inventory of all operations and processes, identify releases (normal, abnormal, accidental, and emergency situations).
- (c) Consider direct and indirect environmental aspects.
- (d) Consider:
 - Emissions to air.
 - Release to water.
 - Waste Management.
 - Contamination of land.
 - Impact on communities.
 - Use of raw materials and natural resources.
 - Other local environmental and community issues.

3. Records of Environmental Aspects

- Review based on sound understanding of environmental issues associated with the process.
- Check that both Direct and Indirect Environmental Aspects have been included.
- Check the method of assigning significance.
- Check that both actual and potential aspects have been included.
- Check that legislative requirements have been taken in view.

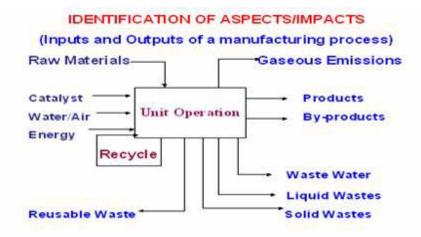
Environmental Aspect and Impact: The Basics

In the study of environment, it is essential to identify each possible environmental aspect and impact of it on our surroundings. The various environmental aspects each have a number of different impacts on the environment. Potential impacts must also be identified.

- 1. Commonly Used Definitions in the Study of Environmental Aspect and Impact
- 1.1. **Environmental Impact** Any change to the environment whether adverse or beneficial (wholly or partially) resulting from an organization's activities products or services.
- 1.2. **Significant Impact** The activity that results in substantial breach of statutory regulations under abnormal conditions.

Knowledge of environmental aspect and impact is necessary in order to have a thorough awareness of the world we live in.

2. Identification of Environmental Aspect and Impact



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Inputs and Outputs of a manufacturing process

3. Cause and EffectActivity Spray PaintingAspect Emissions of Solvent to airImpact Global Warming plus Ozone Depletion

Activity At start up of spray painting **Aspect** Emissions of Solvent to water **Impact** Water Pollution

Activity Spray on to the ground for 5 seconds **Aspect** Contamination of land **Impact** Land Pollution

4. Potential Environmental Impacts

Let us now list out a number of environmental aspects. We shall discuss each environmental aspect and impact that each has on the environment

4.1 Natural Resources

Possible Aspect Over consumption

Impact Depletion of minerals, raw materials, and energy sources

Possible Aspect Habitat destruction

Impact Depletion of living resources

4.2 Air

Possible Aspect CO2, CH4 fossil fuel combustion

Impact Global warming

Possible Aspect CFCs, halons, other chlorinated compounds

Impact Ozone layer depletion

Possible Aspect SO2 Nox NH3

Impact Acid precipitation

Possible Aspect Automobile, bus, truck emissions

Impact Rising ground level ozone

Possible Aspect Industrial emissions : evaporation

Impact Exposure to hazardous gases

Possible Aspect Energy installations

Impact Exposure to smoke

Possible Aspect Nuclear installation, wastes, natural sources

Impact Exposure to radioactivity

4.3 Land

Possible Aspect Hazardous or radioactive waste, air deposition

Impact Contamination

Possible Aspect Mining, construction, drainage

Impact Disturbance and soil erosion, loss of soil cover, water logging,

disturbs groundwater, loss of habitats

4.4 Visual, Noise, Nuisance

Possible Aspect Construction **Impact** Visual

Possible Aspect Production, processes, waters **Impact** Dust

Possible Aspect Machinery, traffic **Impact** Odor, noise, vibration