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| **EFFECTIVE DATE: 04/05/2009** |

**Identifying Environmental Aspects & Impacts**

**1. Introduction:**

This document details the procedure for identifying environmental aspects and impacts associated with the food manufacturing process (NIC Code 10101). Environmental aspects are elements of an organization's activities, products, or services that can interact with the environment. Environmental impacts are any changes to the environment, whether adverse or beneficial, wholly or partially resulting from an organization's activities, products, or services. This process aims to ensure compliance with environmental regulations and promote sustainable manufacturing practices.

**2. Methodology for Identifying Environmental Aspects and Impacts:**

The identification process should involve a systematic review of all aspects of the food production operation, from raw material sourcing to waste disposal. This can be achieved through various methods:

* Workshops and Brainstorming Sessions: Engaging employees from different departments to identify potential environmental aspects and impacts.
* Process Flow Diagrams: Visual representation of the production process to pinpoint potential environmental interactions at each stage.
* Material Balance Analysis: Quantifying the input and output materials to assess resource consumption and waste generation.
* Review of Existing Documentation: Examining existing permits, environmental reports, and operational procedures to identify existing environmental issues.
* Site Inspections: Conducting physical site visits to observe operational activities and identify potential environmental impacts firsthand.
* External Data Sources: Consulting environmental databases, industry best practices, and regulatory requirements.

**3. Categorization of Environmental Aspects and Impacts:**

Identified aspects and impacts should be categorized according to their significance. This can be done based on several factors, including:

* Magnitude: The scale of the potential impact.
* Probability: The likelihood of the impact occurring.
* Regulatory Requirements: The extent to which the aspect or impact is regulated.
* Public Perception: The potential for public concern or negative publicity.
* matrix or table can be created to organize and prioritize the identified aspects and impacts.

**4. Documentation and Reporting:**

* comprehensive register should be maintained to document all identified environmental aspects and impacts, including:
* Aspect/Impact Description: A clear and concise description of each aspect and its potential impacts.
* Source: The operational activity or process responsible for the aspect or impact.
* Magnitude/Probability: A quantitative or qualitative assessment of the significance.
* Regulatory Compliance: Indication of relevant legal and regulatory requirements.
* Control Measures: Existing or proposed measures to mitigate negative impacts.
* Responsibility: Designation of personnel responsible for managing each aspect or impact.

This register should be regularly reviewed and updated to reflect changes in operations, regulations, or technology.

**5. Compliance Notes:**

Compliance with all applicable environmental regulations is paramount. This may include obtaining necessary permits, adhering to emission standards, and managing waste according to legal requirements. Failure to comply with these regulations can result in significant penalties and legal repercussions.

**6. Practical Guidelines:**

* Involve all relevant stakeholders in the identification process.
* Use a standardized methodology for consistent results.
* Regularly review and update the environmental aspect and impact register.
* Integrate environmental considerations into the decision-making process.
* Implement a robust environmental management system (EMS) to manage identified aspects and impacts effectively.

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