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**Identifying Environmental Aspects & Impacts**

**1. Introduction:**

This document outlines the procedure for identifying environmental aspects and impacts associated with the food manufacturing operations (NIC Code: 10101). This process is critical for developing an effective Environmental Management System (EMS) and ensuring compliance with environmental regulations.

**2. Identifying Environmental Aspects:**

* Operational Activities: Begin by systematically reviewing all operational activities, including raw material acquisition, manufacturing processes, packaging, distribution, and waste disposal.
* Material Usage: Identify all materials used in the process, including their sources, quantities, and potential environmental impacts (e.g., water, energy, packaging materials, chemicals).
* Waste Generation: Identify all types of waste generated, including solid waste, wastewater, and air emissions. Quantify waste generation where possible.
* Energy Consumption: Assess energy consumption throughout the production process. Identify major energy consumers and opportunities for energy efficiency improvements.
* Water Usage: Analyze water usage patterns and identify opportunities for water conservation.

**3. Assessing Environmental Impacts:**

* Significance Criteria: Develop criteria for determining the significance of environmental impacts. Consider factors such as magnitude, likelihood, and potential regulatory consequences.
* Impact Assessment: For each identified environmental aspect, assess its potential environmental impacts using available data, expert judgment, and environmental impact assessment methodologies.
* Prioritization: Prioritize environmental aspects and impacts based on their significance. Focus resources on addressing the most significant impacts.

**4. Documentation:**

* Environmental Register: Maintain an environmental register documenting all identified environmental aspects, impacts, and their significance.
* Supporting Data: Gather supporting data to substantiate the assessments of environmental aspects and impacts.
* Regular Review: Review and update the environmental register regularly to reflect changes in operations and environmental regulations.

**5. Compliance Notes:**

* Legal and Regulatory Compliance: The identification of environmental aspects and impacts must comply with all applicable environmental regulations and permits.
* Continuous Improvement: The process of identifying environmental aspects and impacts should be an ongoing process, supporting continuous improvement of the EMS.

**6. Practical Guidelines:**

* Employee Involvement: Involve employees at all levels in the identification and assessment of environmental aspects and impacts.
* Stakeholder Engagement: Consult with relevant stakeholders, such as local communities and regulatory agencies.
* Life Cycle Assessment: Consider conducting a life cycle assessment (LCA) to assess the environmental impacts of products throughout their entire lifecycle.

This documentation provides a comprehensive framework for managing environmental aspects within a food manufacturing facility. Remember to adapt these guidelines to your specific operations and regulatory requirements. Regular review and updates are essential to ensure the continued effectiveness of your environmental management system.