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European Monitoring Centre on Change

Austria: Obligation to undertake energy efficiency audits

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Austria

Phase:

Anticipation

Type:

Obligation to undertake energy efficiency audits

Last modified: 10 December, 2021

Native name: **Energieeffizienzgesetz**

English name: **Energy efficiency act**

Article

9

Description

The energy efficiency act requires large companies and energy suppliers to undertake energy audits. Such obligation is based on the size of each company or corporate group. A large company is defined by having at least 250 employees or a turnover of at least EUR 50 Mio as well as at least EUR 43 Mio of total assets.

Large companies are obliged to undertake energy audits every four years under the energy efficiency act. Companies can conduct either an external energy audit or implement an intra-nationally recognised management system (i.e. energy or environmental management system). Audits have to cover the areas of buildings, transport, and processes, if an area exceeds 10% of total energy consumption. Energy audits shall be conducted by an approved auditor. External auditors have to be listed in a public register.

Regardless of whether a large company decides to carry out an external audit or implement a suitable management system, in principle it can switch to the other option during the commitment period.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) can consult an energy advice service and report the contents and findings to the national energy efficiency monitoring agency.

Comments

Results of the first obligation period were published in October 2016, with 59% of the large companies choosing the external energy audit and 41% implementing an energy or environmental management system. Out of the 41% which have chosen a management system, 47% of the companies conducted the international environmental management system according to ISO 14001, and 41% of the companies opted for the energy management system according to ISO 50001.

In 2020, a total of 2,059 large companies reported to the monitoring agency. 1,207 of them have opted for an external audit, whereas 682 companies made use of an internal energy or environmental management system.

Cost covered by

Employer






Involved actors other than national government

National government only

Thresholds

No, applicable in all circumstances

Sources

-  [Obligatory energy audits for large companies \(Mure database\)](#)
-  [Reports on the implementation of the energy efficiency act in accordance with section 30 paragraph 1 and section 30 paragraph 3 EEEffG](#)
-  [Energy efficiency act \(in German\)](#)
-  [Stand der Umsetzung des Bundes- Energieeffizienzgesetzes \(EEffG\) in Österreich - Berichtsjahr 2020](#)
-  [Criteria for large companies \(in German\)](#)

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