



Role of Compliance Assurance in Environmental Management

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Compliance Assurance Conference, Paris, 17 November 2008



Conference Objectives

- To exchange experiences on good practices and trends in compliance assurance in OECD countries and major emerging economies
- To agree on a limited number of emerging compliance assurance issues that would represent priorities for more in-depth study

Importance of Environmental Compliance Assurance

- Despite good progress, OECD countries are generally not on track to achieve their main environmental objectives
- There is a need to address an implementation gap between environmental policies and practices
- In closing the implementation gap, a need for more effective compliance and enforcement, so far the weakest link in environmental regulatory cycle
- Compliance assurance has been given relatively little attention compared with policy design

Policy Challenge of More Effective and Efficient Compliance Assurance

- How can governments use their limited human and financial resources to achieve the greatest environmental gain?
- Which mix of instruments is most effective?
- How can performance of enforcement authorities be measured?
- How can environmental policy design and enforcement approaches be made most mutually supportive?

How Are Countries Responding to the Challenge?

- Comparative analysis of compliance assurance systems in six OECD countries and two major non-member partners
- Goal – to provide policy makers, regulators and other stakeholders with:
 - Better understanding of factors affecting design and performance of compliance assurance strategies and instruments
 - Insights on how scarce agency resources can be used to achieve the greatest environmental outcome
 - Information on how the cost burden on the regulated community can be reduced
 - Outline of major trends in efforts to enhance compliance assurance

Key Message – Improving the Efficiency of Compliance Assurance

- Focusing the activities where they are likely to count most
 - Risk-based targeting
- Improving the traditional instruments
 - Example: cross-media integration of compliance monitoring
- Adopting innovative approaches and tools
 - Examples: compliance promotion, use of information technology

Organisation of the Conference

- Bringing together enforcers, policy makers, and other stakeholders
- Main blocks of the two-day agenda:
 1. Major Trends in Environmental Compliance Assurance
 2. Modern Compliance Assurance Strategies
 3. Engaging the Regulated Community
 4. Areas for Further Work