Environment Information
Audits

Sydney Metro Airports (SMA) in their capacity as the airport-lessee company of Bankstown Airport Limited (*BAL*) and Camden Airport Limited (*BAL*), require airport operators, tenants and other occupiers of airport land to complete environmental audits of their facilities on a schedule commensurate with their environmental risk.

Why Audit?

Airport operators, tenants and other occupiers of airport land have a legal responsibility to manage the environmental aspects and impacts of their activities. This may include having an operational environmental management plan and regular environmental audits.

Environmental audits are a useful tool to

- Identify aspects of an organisation's activities that impact the environment and to what extent,
- Assess compliance with environmental legislation; and
- To identify opportunities for improvement (which may also result in cost savings).

SMA also has obligations to manage, monitor and report on environmental matters.

Airport Environment Strategy

In accordance with the *Airports Act 1996*, the *Airports Regulations 1997* and the *Airports (Environment Protection) Regulations 1997*, every five years an Airport Environment Strategy (*AES*) must be developed for both Bankstown and Camden Airports respectively. The AES must specify (amongst other things), the:

- Objectives for environmental management at the airport;
- Sources of environmental impact associated with airport operations;
- Monitoring that will be carried out in connection with the identified environmental impacts; and
- Measures that will be carried out to prevent, control or reduce the environmental impacts associated with airport operations.

Monitoring and Reporting Obligations

SMA also have specific obligations under Regulation 6.02 of the *Airports (Environment Protection) Regulations 1997* to monitor pollution levels in accordance with its AES. Regulation 6.05 states that an occupier of part of an airport site must give assistance to the airport-lessee company with respect to such monitoring, including:

(a) *establishing and maintaining its own appropriate system, or systems, of monitoring the environmental consequences of:*

   (i) *its activities; and*

   (ii) *the activities of other persons in the area occupied; and*

(b) *reporting to the airport-lessee company the results of the monitoring.*

To meet the environmental management objectives and monitoring and reporting obligations, the AES for Bankstown and Camden Airports establishes that environmental audits of all airport facilities and operations, including tenants, will be conducted.

How are audits of tenant operations conducted?

The AES classifies tenants into three (3) tiers according to the environmental risks inherent in their operations and activities. The level of risk determines how, when and by whom a tenant is audited.

Requirements based on Tier

Tier Definition	Environmental Audit Frequency	Auditor Qualifications	Other requirements
1 - Operations are considered to have a **potential for significant environmental risk**. This includes, but is not limited to, tenants that: • Store 500 litres or more of hazardous substances or dangerous goods; and/or • Distribute fuel.	Annually (more frequently if appropriate under specific licencing or regulatory requirements)	Internal staff member who has received appropriate training N.B Every 2nd year the auditor must be an independent certified environmental auditor	Assess environmental risks and prepare an Environmental Management System (EMS) or Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP)
2 - Operations are considered to have a **potential for moderate environmental risk** and includes but is not limited to, tenants that: • Store up to 499 litres or more of hazardous substances or dangerous goods; and/or • Operate spray paint booths; and/or • Undertake the maintenance and/or repair operations requiring the cleaning or washing of parts.	Annually	Internal staff member who has received appropriate training N.B Every 3rd year the auditor must be an independent third party with appropriate environmental qualifications and environmental auditor experience	Assess environmental risks and prepare an Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP)
3 - Operations are considered to have a **potential for minor environmental risk** and include all tenants not categorised as Tier 1 or 2.	Once every 5 years as directed by BAL/CAL Environment Manager	Internal staff member who has received appropriate training	No other requirements

What does the audit need to address?

Audits must assess the following matters, as relevant:

- Confirmation of the tenant's tier status;
- Compliance with relevant legislative and regulatory requirements and the AES for the airport;
- Compliance with the organisation's EMS/OEMP requirements (as relevant);
- Potential for air, water, soil and ground-based noise pollution, associated with the organisation's business activities;
- Management (use, storage and disposal) of dangerous goods and hazardous substances, including ozone depleting substances;
- Waste management including solid and liquid wastes and hazardous substances;
- Documentation and record keeping; and
- Management of actions arising from previous audits.

For more information on why these issues are addressed and the type of matters that should be considered during the course of an audit refer to Environment Information Sheet 2 – Airport Operator Environment Management Responsibilities, available on the Airport website.

What information does SMA require?

An environmental audit report, outlining the results of the audit including all recommendations for improvement and a timeframe for their implementation. This must be provided to SMA Environment and Heritage Manager by the date requested (usually within Q1 of each year).

How will the audit results be managed?

Tenants are to report on compliance with any recommendations made in the audit report and the effectiveness of the actions that have been taken to the Bankstown and Camden Airport's Environment Manager and the Airport Environment Officer (*AEO*).

SMA Environment and Heritage Manager and the AEO may also conduct general environmental inspections from time to time.

The Airport Environment Officer

The AEO is appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development (*DoIRD*) and is authorised under the *Airports Act 1996* to exercise statutory powers regarding environmental issues. Focusing on strategic environmental goals, the AEO liaises with BAL and CAL, airport tenants and operators. The AEO conducts regular meetings, site inspections, facility audits and reporting requirements to ensure management of the airport environment is within the intent of the legislation.

Further information

An Environment Audit Guide and Environment Audit Checklists has been prepared to assist the audit process, and is available from the SMA Environment and Heritage Manager.

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