How to join the ECOSLC-ECOPORTS network, introduce SDM and PERS and prepare for ECOPORTS PERS certification
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Ecoports PERS is the only port-specific environmental management standard and it is fully recognized and promoted by the European Seaports Association (ESPO), the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) and the independent non-profit Foundation ECO Sustainable Logistic Chain (ECOSLC). The World bank recognizes ECOPORTS Environmental Management System as a global standard also for environmental risk prevention, in its port finance schemes. European Ports can register via the European Ports Organisation ESPO and ports outside Europe can register via ECOSLC for the implementation of ECOPORTS and Certification.

The steps that a port needs to follow in order to join the EcoPorts network and start the certification process are outlined below:

1. Register to the system
The port creates an account in the ECOSLC website: www.ecoslc.eu and receives a password to access the EcoPorts portal pages.

2. Complete the PORT PROFILE section
The port provides some generic factual information of the port and positions the port on a world map.

3. Pay the tariff for SDM, related reports and formal recognition: 995 Euro
The port pays the fee for SDM and gains access to the SDM checklist. After the payment is received the Ecoports SDM will be made available for implementation and review.

4. Complete the SDM checklist
The port provides information on the organisation and performance of its environmental management. This information is treated confidential and contributes to the up-to-date maintenance of the benchmark of performance of ports in and outside Europe.

5. Submit the SDM.
After completing the SDM checklist the port submits the list via the website. Thereafter the following actions will start:
   a. Analytical review
The completed SDM is reviewed independently and in strict confidence by the ESPO/AAPA/ECOSLC/Ecoports collaborating experts. The review includes: (a) a projection of the port's answers against the European benchmark of performance, (b) a GAP analysis between the port's current organization and performance and the requirements of established environmental management standards (ISO 14001 and PERS), (c) a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) identification of the port's environmental management performance, and (d) an analytical report containing expert's advice and recommendations on the current status and the further development of the port's environmental management program.
   b. Formal Recognition as Ecoports Port
By completing SDM the port achieves an "EcoPorts port" status and is provided visibility and credit by ECOSLC through this portal on a world map of the Ecoports Ports Network.
A completed SDM has a validity period of 2 years. After this period the port needs to repeat this step in order to maintain its "EcoPorts port" status.

6. Apply for Ecoports PERS certification: pay the fee for PERS and certification

After the port has finished and introduced SDM, the next step can be taken namely: the introduction of PERS and applying for certification, including the verification by the independent auditor Lloyd's Register (Netherlands).

The port has to pay a fee to start this step. The fee is different for a port that has a valid ISO 14001 certificate and a port that has NOT a valid ISO 14001 certificate. Ports with more than 25 million tons cargo handling yearly pay a different tariff than ports with less than 25 million tons of cargo handling yearly.

A. A port has a valid ISO 14001 certificate.

The fee covers the registration, documentation, review and formal recognition as an Ecoports PERS Certified Port in case certification is approved.

Total Fee for ports handling up till 25 million tons cargo per year	**2975 Euro**
Total Fee for ports handling over 25 million tons cargo per year	**3995 Euro**

B. A port has NOT a valid ISO 14001 certificate.

In this case the audit is extended with an additional onsite audit in the port.

Total fee for Ports with up till 25 million tons per year cargo handling	**4675 Euro**
Total fee for Ports handling over 25 million tons of cargo yearly	**6370 Euro**

The fee has to be paid in advance.

7. Receive PERS documentation and implement the PERS methodology

After the payment is received by ECOSLC the port receives the PERS documents and starts its implementation. Once PERS is implemented, the port can apply for PERS certification. This is done by uploading the required documentation to the ECOSLC-website (www.ecoslc.eu). ECOSLC will do a quick check of completeness and thereafter Lloyd's Register will make a Review of the results and advice ECOSLC about certification. After certification is approved the port will be contacted about the delivery of the certificate.

8. Ecoports Introduction and Training Workshop for SDM, PERS and certification.

This preparation workshop assists ports in the implementation of SDM, PERS and in preparing for certification during a 2 days-workshop. The port or a group of ports have to organize this for its employees that have a task in environmental management. ECOSLC will deliver an Ecoports trainer for a small group or two trainers for a larger group. The costs can differ between different countries, depending on the required travel time and travel costs.

Please contact ECOSLC if you are interested via info@ecoslc.eu. The fee for the course has to be paid in advance.

Another option is on line assistance. If you are interested please ask for our tariff.