

Issue # 13

Duties and responsibilities of appointed Energy Managers under the Energy Conservation Act.

We are coming back on this issue, which is an important one, because energy managers may be a major force to increase annual investments in energy efficient technology and processes. There is perhaps still a misconception about the duties and responsibilities of an energy manager. No uncertainty about the duties and responsibilities of accredited energy auditor under the Energy Conservation Act exists. Their task is to conduct a professional energy audit and recommend technically and financially sound proposals to reduce energy costs in a firm.

The duties and responsibilities of an energy manager are very roughly defined by clause 14 (l) under the Act.

“direct any designated consumer to designate or appoint energy manager in charge of activities for efficient use of energy and its conservation and submit a report, in the form and manner as may be prescribed, on the status of energy consumption at the end of every financial year to the designated agency”

However BEE under the clause 56 (2) (v),

In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:-

(v) “any other matter which is to be, or may be, prescribed, or in respect of which provision is to be made, or may be made, by rules”.

may detail and frame additional rules and responsibilities.

In general we talk about three areas to be covered by an energy manager (EM).

- (i) The “inhouse tasks” of an energy manager, i.e. duties and responsibilities with regard to implementation of energy cost reduction measures of the company.
- (ii) The duties and responsibility with regard to requirements of a BEE-State entity in charge of implementation of the Energy Conservation Act at a State level.

- (iii) The duties and responsibility of an energy manager with regard to the mandatory requirement to ask an accredited energy auditor firm to conduct an energy audit and prepare recommendations how to reduce energy costs.

Having said (iii) it is obvious that an energy manager cannot audit the company employing him, except the firm has set up a separate entity that is an energy auditor accredited with the Bureau.

You may shape the future duties and responsibility of an energy manager by telling us your opinion about the duties and responsibilities of an energy manager under the Energy Conservation Act.

Contributions should focus on the three key areas (i), (ii), (iii). Telling us that under (i) an *“energy manager should advise management how to reduce energy costs”* is too vague.

A more focussed and informative statement would be *“energy manager and management call once a quarter a plant meeting of all shop level operators, discuss energy cost reduction measures, follow up on impact and prepare a summary of the meeting to document progress and future action”*.

In formulating duties and responsibilities follow simple rules and state

- (i) With whom is the energy manager doing what?
- (ii) Why is it done?
- (iii) How is it done?
- (iv) Where is it done?

In order to get a numerous response and to honor many contributions we bend the awarding rules for this issue and will award 10 prizes, each Rs. 3,000 for focused and detailed contributions.