Environmental Auditing

INTRODUCTION

- **An environmental audit is a tool which companies use to evaluate and quantify their environmental performance in order to identify compliance or management system implementation gaps. The scale and intensity of the audit is dictated by which type of environmental audit a company conducts.**

- **Environmental audit provide your organization with third-party verification and reviewing of your environmental initiatives and improvements.**

OBJECTIVES

- To evaluate the company's adherence to laws, regulations, and relevant obligations.

- Establish performance standards to create a foundation for planning and constructing an environmental management system.

- To encourage effective environmental management practices.

- To sustain public trust and reputation.

- Increasing awareness and reinforcing the company's internal dedication to environmental policies.

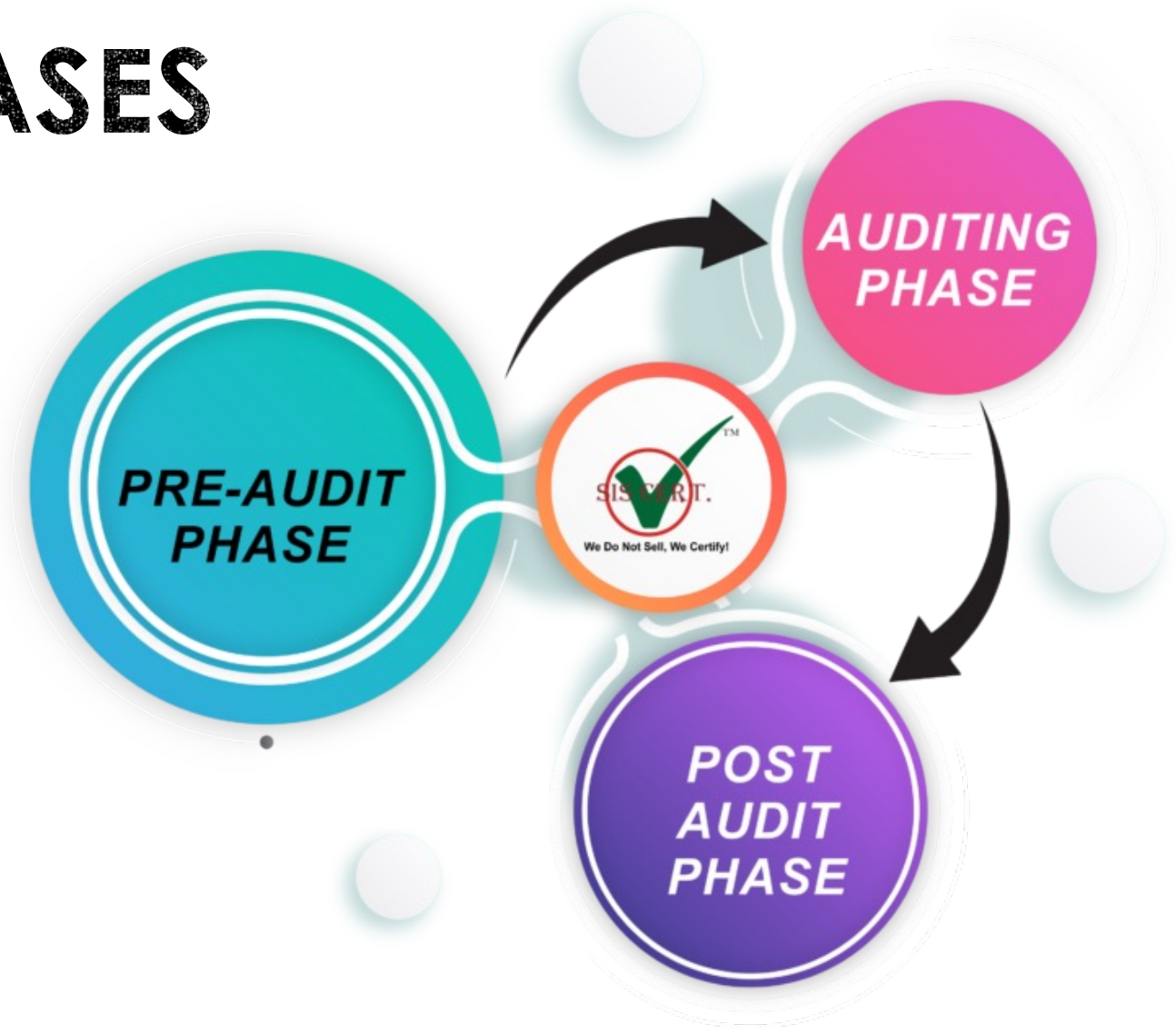- To reduce the potential risks to health and safety arising from environmental concerns.

TYPES

- **Environmental compliance audit** – This audit assesses a company's environmental performance and responsible practices, examining its compliance with legal and regulatory requirements and standards like ISO 14001. It is typically the most extensive and potentially costly type of audit.

- **Environmental management audit** – This audit verifies whether a company has achieved the environmental objectives, policies, and performance established by its management.

- **Functional environmental audit** – This audit concentrates on a specific aspect or impact of a particular activity, such as audits focused on wastewater management, materials usage, or air quality monitoring.

PHASES

PRE-AUDIT

- Creation of an Auditing team
- Construction of an Audit plan
- Documentation review- It includes

  – Permit application

  – Records related to production

  – Reports

  – Reports of previous audits(if any) along with proof of the corrective actions taken

- Preparing a list of possible questions and follow-ups related to prior audits conducted Filing the 'Disclosure of Violation Table' of identified issues

AUDIT

- Setting ground rules
- Determining solutions for the identified issues
- Regular meetings to document data
    - Environmental policies
    - Compliance
    - Reports related to training
        - Monitoring and storing records of Air, Water and Noise pollution

- Site inspection
- Evaluating operations to ensure compliance
- Collecting samples if required
- Cross-examining EHS personnel, operation, management, maintenance and policies

POST - AUDIT

- Preparation of Environment Audit reports and the Disclosure of Violation Table

- Listing identified issues and concerned areas

- Listing action taken and required follow-ups

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BENEFITS

- This helps you to safeguard the environment and preserve the natural resources that are very much essential for maintaining a healthy environment in your organization.

- It can also assist you to identify and address actual or potential problem areas.

- It can help your organization in reducing cost expenses and minimizing organizational waste and other activities.

- It helps you to be up-to-date with all the required information to stay in compliance with the current environmental laws.

- It helps you to prove that your organizational processes are totally environment friendly and assure **environmental protection** and safety.

REFERENCE

- https://www.siscertifications.com/environmental-audits/

- https://enterclimate.com/environmental-audits

- https://www.slideshare.net/ForamVala/environmental-audit