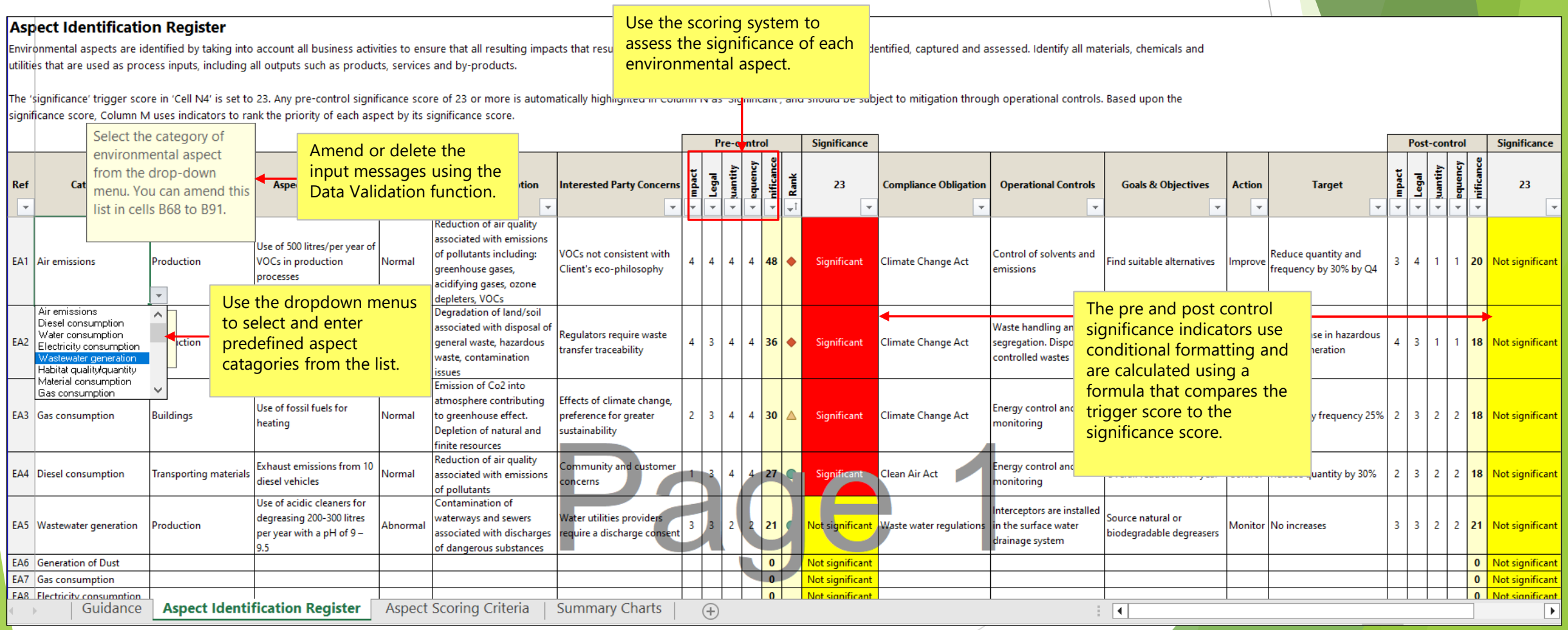
ISO 14001 Training Module 6.1.2 – Environmental Aspects

6.1 Actions to address risks and opportunities

6.1.2 Environmental Aspects

- Use the register to capture and analyze environmental aspects and impacts



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6.1.2 Environmental Aspects

- Within the defined scope of the EMS, organizations need to determine the environmental aspects of their activities, products and services that they can control and those that they can influence, and their associated environmental impacts, considering a life cycle perspective.
- When determining environmental aspects, organizations must take into account:
  - change, including planned or new developments, and new or modified activities, products and services.
  - abnormal conditions and reasonably foreseeable emergency situations.
- Organizations must determine, using established criteria, those aspects that have, or can have, a significant environmental impact.
- They must then communicate their significant environmental aspects among the various levels and functions of their organization, as appropriate.

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- They also need to maintain documented information (i.e. records) of their:
  - Environmental aspects and associated environmental impacts.
  - Criteria used to determine significant environmental aspects.
  - Significant environmental aspects.
- You need to determine the environmental aspects within the scope of your EMS taking into account both intended and unintended inputs and outputs associated with current and relevant past activities, planned or new developments, and new or modified activities.
- The method used should consider normal and abnormal operating conditions, shut-down and start-up conditions, as well as the reasonably foreseeable emergency situations identified in clause 6.1.1.
- Weight should be given to prior occurrences of emergency situations.

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6.1.2 Environmental Aspects

- You may group or categorise activities, materials, products, services etc. when they have common characteristics, rather than treat each individually.
- Consideration should be given to all those environmental aspects related to your activities, products and services, including:
  - Design and development of facilities, processes, products and services.
  - Acquisition of raw materials and their origin.
  - Operational or manufacturing, packaging and distribution processes.
  - Operation and maintenance of facilities, assets and infrastructure.
  - Environmental performance and practices of external providers.
  - Storage, use and end-of-life treatment of products.
  - Waste management, including reuse, refurbishing, recycling and disposal can result in risks and opportunities having both adverse and beneficial impacts.