

Measuring the Compliance of Production Processes of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises: Piloting a New Model and Index

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The aim of this research is to propose a novel assessment model for analysing small and medium enterprises within the manufacturing and production industries: the small and medium enterprise compliance analysis (SECA). The SECA allows an integrated assessment to be conducted, one that considers all the main applicable legislative requirements across various domains, including mandatory compliance in safety, environmental protection and workers' rights. Based on the results of such assessment, we introduce the Index of Small and Medium Enterprises Compliance (ISEC) to measure the overall compliance for each enterprise.

To validate this model, this paper presents the pilot application of the SECA on enterprises located and operating within the textile and fashion manufacturing district in Prato, Italy. The analysis is based on a sample of 102 ethnic Chinese-owned enterprises that voluntarily participated in an assessment of their compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

The results that emerge through this case study reveal that the SECA is an appropriate and flexible model to help entrepreneurs better understand areas of weakness and noncompliance in their management systems, to motivate them to improve internal management procedures and to facilitate the creation and refinement of tailored policies to promote more sustainable production processes.