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ISO 14001: 2015

Understanding the changes



Why has ISO 14001 been Revised?

ISO 14001, an internationally recognised Environmental Management System has been revised to a new and updated standard, ISO 14001:2015

Why?

All of the ISO Standards are reviewed every five years. This is to check whether a revision is needed to keep the standard up-to-date with the market and to other management systems such as ISO 9001. ISO 14001:2015 will therefore be compatible with other management systems and respond to the latest trends.

What are the key changes?

ISO 14001:2004 and ISO 14001:2015 both cover the same essential topics; there have been some important changes, some of which are mentioned below:

- ⇒ The new standard follows a higher level structure known as Annex SL. This is to make it easier to use in conjunction with other management standards such as ISO 9001 Quality Management.
- ⇒ There is an increase in the importance of risk and identifying opportunities
- ⇒ A commitment to Environmental Management through leadership has been enhanced
- ⇒ To protect the environment from degradation and/or harm, there is an addition of proactive initiatives, for example, climate change mitigation and sustainable resource use
- ⇒ A focus on continual improvement to ensure that better results are achieved through the EMS





New Structure Explained

As mentioned previously, the most significant change to the standard is the new structure, Annex SL. The 2015 version of ISO 14001 now has ten sections:

ISO 14001:2004

- 1.Scope
- 2.Normative Reference
- 3.Terms and Definitions
- 4.EMS Requirements
 - 4.1 General Requirements
 - 4.2 Environmental Policy
 - 4.3 Planning
 - 4.4 Implementation and Operation
 - 4.5 Checking
 - 4.6 Management Review

ISO 14001:2015

- 1.Scope
- 2.Normative Reference
- 3.Terms and Definitions
- 4.Context of the Organisation
- 5.Leadership
- 6.Planning
- 7.Support
- 8.Operation
- 9.Performance Evaluation
- 10.Improvement

As can be seen from the comparison, the structure and terminology is now different and perhaps more definitive. Taking a closer look at the new sections of ISO 14001:2015, we can see that there are new requirements including:

Clause 4. is now 'Context of the Organisation', meaning that it is now necessary to understand the external and internal context of your organisation in relation to the Environmental Management System. This means identifying the external and internal environmental aspects and requirements that may influence your EMS.

Leadership is a new requirement and is defined in its own section within the new ISO 14001:2015 standard. This means that top management throughout the organisation are expected to take a more hands on approach to the EMS. This will ensure companywide motivation and commitment towards goals, a continued focus on improvement, and the effectiveness of the EMS.

Clause 6. 'Planning' - Risk and Opportunity based thinking is also a new requirement of the standard and is to be incorporated into all elements of the system. The organisation is required to develop objectives and plan to achieve them.

Clause 7. 'Support' is referring to the supporting processes (which includes resources, competence, communication, and documentation) of the organisation.

The new section 8. 'Operation' is about the operational planning and control of the EMS and the preparedness and response of emergency situations.



The ninth clause 'Performance Evaluation' is ensuring that the EMS is operating and functioning to achieve its intended objectives. It is also about ensuring compliance to any legal requirements of the organisation. Internal audits and management reviews are included in this chapter.

The final clause 'Improvement' is about identifying what has gone wrong and why, and ensuring continual improvement of the management system. This section also covers the familiar territory of 'nonconformity' and 'corrective action'.

New Terminology & Differences

ISO 14001:2015	ISO 14001:2004
Compliance Obligations	Legal Requirements and Other Requirements to which the Organisation Subscribes
Documented Information	Documentation; Documents; Records
External Provider (new)	<i>Means external supplier organisation (including a contractor) that provides a product or service.</i>
Determine	Identify
Intended Outcome (new)	<i>Means what the organisation intends to achieve by implementing its EMS.</i>
Person(s) doing work under its control	Persons working for or on its behalf; Persons working for or on behalf of the organisation
Environmental Objective	Target





What are the Benefits?

Continuous improvement of environmental performance

The new standard aims to make sure that environmental management is seamlessly combined with your organisations key business strategies; this strategic focus will ensure continued improvement.

Leadership

The organisations management/leadership team will have a more hands on approach to the management system. This will generate company wide motivation towards goals and objectives.

Environmental Performance

Organisations will be required to establish plans for environmental protection and improve environmental performance. This will mean an improved EMS which minimises the risk of environmental liability and regulatory fines. It also increases efficiency and can reduce operating costs and reduce waste.

Integrated Approach

The new structure will be relevant to all ISO management systems, this means that integration of multiple management systems will be more



What next?

If you are already certified against ISO 14001:2004, you have a three year transition period before you need to upgrade your system. This means that you must be certified against ISO 14001:2015 by September 2018.

If you are new to ISO 14001 certification, we suggest certifying to the new standard.

Support from Interface NRM

We can help you to understand the changes, and guide you through the new concepts and explain what you need to do. You can also keep an eye on our [blog](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) to stay in touch. We will be providing on-going support and information. Our goal for the new standard transition is to have transferred all of our clients before the 2018 deadline.

Feel free to get in touch at any time, visit our website to fill in an enquiry form, or give us a call on 01952 288325



New ISO 14001:2015 Clause	Previous ISO 14001:2004 Equivalent
1. Scope	1. Scope
2. Normative Reference	2. Normative Reference
3. Terms and Definitions	3. Terms and Definitions
4. Context of the Organisation	N/A
4.1 Understanding the Organisation and its context	N/A
4.2 Understanding the needs and expectations of interested parties	N/A
4.3 Determining the scope of the EMS	4.1 General Requirements
4.4 Environmental Management System	4.1 General Requirements
5. Leadership	N/A
5.1 Leadership and Commitment	4.4.1 Resource, Role, Responsibility and Authority
5.2 Environmental Policy	4.2 Environmental Policy
5.3 Organisational Roles, Responsibilities and Opportunities	4.4.2 Competence, Training and Awareness
6. Planning	4.3 Planning (title only)
6.1 Actions to Address Risks and Opportunities	4.3.1 Environmental Aspects
6.1.1 General	4.3.1 Environmental Aspects
6.1.2 Environmental Aspects	4.3.1 Environmental Aspects
6.1.3 Compliance Obligations	4.3.2 Legal and other Requirements
6.1.4 Planning Action	4.3.3 Objectives, Targets, and Programme(s)
6.2 Environmental Objectives and Planning to achieve them	4.3.3 Objectives, Targets, and Programme(s)
6.2.1 Environmental Objectives	4.3.3 Objectives, Targets, and Programme(s)
6.2.2 Planning to achieve environmental objectives	4.3.3 Objectives, Targets, and Programme(s)
7. Support	4.4 Implementation and Operation (title only)
7.1 Resources	4.4.1 Resources, Roles, Responsibility and Authority
7.2 Competence	4.4.2 Competence, Training and Awareness
7.3 Awareness	4.4.2 Competence, Training and Awareness
7.4 Communication	4.4.3 Communication
7.4.1 General	4.4.3 Communication
7.4.2 Internal Communication	4.4.3 Communication
7.4.3 External Communication	4.4.3 Communication
7.5 Documented Information	4.4.4 Documentation
7.5.1 General	4.4.4 Documentation
7.5.2 Creating and Updating	4.4.5 Control of documents and 4.5.4 Control of Records
7.5.3 Control of Documented Information	4.4.5 Control of documents and 4.5.4 Control of Records
8. Operation	4.4 Implementation of Operation
8.1 Operation Planning Control	4.4.6 Operational Control
8.2 Emergency Preparedness and Response	4.4.7 Emergency Preparedness and Response
9. Performance Evaluation	4.5 Checking
9.1 Monitoring, Measurement, Analysis and Evaluation	4.5.1 Monitoring and Measurement
9.1.1 General	4.5.1 Monitoring and Measurement
9.1.2 Evaluation of Compliance	4.5.2 Evaluation of Compliance
9.2 Internal Audit	4.5.5 Internal Audit
9.2.1 General	4.5.5 Internal Audit
9.2.2 Internal Audit Programme	4.5.5 Internal Audit
9.3 Management Review	4.6 Management Review
10. Improvement	
10.1 General	
10.2 Nonconformity and Corrective Action	4.5.3 Nonconformity, Corrective action, & preventive action
10.3 Continual Improvement	