

ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management Systems

Requirements with guidance for use

ISO 14001:2015 is the third edition of one of the world's most recognised International standards used to help organisations improve their environmental management performance. Published in September 2015, the standard has a new common structure to improve the consistency between standards and facilitate the implementation of integrated management systems.



ISO Environmental Audit

Who is the qualification for?

ISO 14001 can be applied to any business regardless of size or complexity enabling an organisation to demonstrate their commitment to environmental performance improvement. Key requirements include strategic consideration of the organisations environmental context, leadership, and integration into core business processes. Independent certification to the standard confirms that the environmental management systems and arrangements are designed to meet enhanced system requirements.



Benefits:

- Improved management of environmental risks and opportunities
- Reduction in raw materials use, emissions, waste, energy, water and associated costs
- Reduced environmental footprint through taking a life-cycle perspective
- Competitive edge in tender applications from an enhanced business reputation
- Improved engagement with stakeholders and attractive to ethical investors
- Improved corporate responsibility and promotion of sustainable business practices.

How does it work?

Our auditors visit your sites(s) that are to be included within the scope of the certification. Audits can be undertaken to the previous 2004 standard, though certificates will expire in September 2018 when the transition period closes and the previous standard withdrawn. Alternatively, certification can be completed immediately to the 2015 version. Auditors will carry out a review of your environmental management systems and associated arrangements against the requirements of the ISO 14001 standard. This will be undertaken through a process of document review, interviews with key personnel and inspection of your organisation's operations and premises. This audit process will include sampling of operational activities to ensure effective implementation of the environmental management system.

The audit can be carried out in two stages (see below) or alternatively in a "one off" initial compliance audit visit.

Stage one audit:

This is primarily a document review of the environmental management system to ensure the requirements of the standard are in place. Dependent on the outcome of this stage, the auditor will recommend and agree the schedule and date for the stage two audit.

Stage two audit:

This will involve a review and completion of any nonconformances identified within the stage one process, together with a sampling of effective implementation of the systems in accordance with the ISO 14001 standard.

Following completion of the audits a written report will be provided outlining areas of non-conformance and/or observations for improvement of existing systems.

How long does certification last?

Upon successful completion of the audit process and subsequent awarding of certification, as a minimum the organisation will be subject to annual surveillance audits for the duration of the certification period, typically a three year certification cycle. This is to ensure the requirements of the standard are being maintained and continually improved.