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ISO 14001:2015 Revision Factsheet

A quick guide to ISO/DIS
14001:2014 as of July 2014

What is the ISO 14001?

ISO 14001 is recognised as an environmental management system standard suitable for large and small organisations. Based on the Plan-Do-Check-Act methodology, it provides a systematic framework for integrating environmental management practices by supporting environmental protection, preventing pollution, minimising waste, and reducing energy and materials consumption.

ISO 14001 revision

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is currently working on a major revision of the ISO 14001 standard as the currently valid version dates back to 2004. The Technical Corrigendum (Cor 1:2009), published in 2009, included only formal amendments, while the content remained unchanged. Publication of the final version of ISO 14001:2015 is expected in late 2015. This factsheet is to inform you about the current status.

Revision timeline

“Committee Draft” ISO CD 14001.2 was published in October 2013. During a comment period, the committee received around 5000 comments. The “Draft International Standard” ISO/DIS, the next step in the revision process, was published this July. Again, the international community of ISO members has been given the opportunity to comment on this draft and submit change requests.

The DIS (“Draft International Standard”) was published in English; publication of the German, French and Spanish translation is scheduled for **September 2014**. The “Final Draft International Standard” (FDIS) is expected to be available by **early 2015**. This final draft will then be subjected to a final voting process.

Publication of the new ISO 14001:2015 standard is currently scheduled for **September 2015**.

Structure of ISO/DIS 14001:2014 compared to ISO 14001:2004

ISO/DIS 14001:2014		ISO 14001:2004	
Understanding the organisation and its context	4.1		
Understanding the needs and expectations of interested parties.	4.2		
Determining the scope of the EMS	4.3	4.1	General requirements
Environmental management system	4.4	4.1	General requirements
Leadership (title only)	5		
Leadership and commitment	5.1	4.4.1	Resources, roles, responsibility and authority
Environmental policy	5.2	4.2	Environmental policy
Organisational roles, responsibilities and authorities	5.3	4.4.1	Resources, roles, responsibility and authority
Planning (title only)	6	4.3	Planning (title only)
Actions to address risk associated with threats and opportunities (title only)	6.1		
General	6.1.1		
Significant environmental aspects	6.1.2	4.3.1	Environmental aspects
Compliance obligations	6.1.3	4.3.2	Legal and other requirements
Risk associated with threats and opportunities	6.1.4	4.3.1	Environmental aspects
Planning to take action	6.1.5	4.5.3	Nonconformity, corrective action and preventive action
Environmental objectives and planning to achieve them (title only)	6.2	4.3.3	Objectives, targets and programme(s)
Environmental objectives	6.2.1	4.3.3	Objectives, targets and programme(s)
Planning actions to achieve environmental objectives	6.2.2	4.3.3	Objectives, targets and programme(s)
Support (title only)	7	4.4	Implementation and operation (title only)
Resources	7.1	4.4.1	Resources, roles, responsibility and authority
Competence	7.2	4.4.2	Competence, training and awareness
Awareness	7.3	4.4.2	Competence, training and awareness
Communication (title only)	7.4	4.4.3	Communication
General	7.4.1	4.4.3	Communication
Internal communication	7.4.2	4.4.3	Communication
External communication	7.4.3	4.4.3	Communication
Documented information (title only)	7.5	4.4.4	Documentation
General	7.5.1	4.4.4	
Creating and updating	7.5.2	4.4.5 4.5.4	Control of documents Control of records
Control of documented information	7.5.3	4.4.5 4.5.4	Control of documents Control of records
Operation (title only)	8	4.4	Implementation and operation (title only)
Operational planning and control	8.1	4.4.6	Operational control
Emergency preparedness and response	8.2	4.4.7	Emergency preparedness and response
Performance evaluation (title only)	9	4.5	Checking (title only)
Monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation (title only)	9.1	4.5.1	Monitoring and measurement
General	9.1.1	4.5.1	Monitoring and measurement
Evaluation of compliance	9.1.2	4.5.2	Evaluation of compliance
Internal Audit	9.2	4.5.5	Internal Audit
Management review	9.3	4.6	Management review
Improvement (title only)	10		
Nonconformity and corrective action	10.1	4.5.3	Non-conformity, corrective action and preventive action
Continual improvement	10.2	4.1	General requirements



New structure

Publication of the DIS has shed some light on the new requirements that will be included in the revised standard. What is certain is that there will be structural changes. One new feature, for example, will be the “High Level Structure” (HLS). According to a decision passed by the ISO, the HLS will have to be applied to all management system standards (e.g. ISO 9001:2015) in the future, introducing a standardised structure and the use of core texts and common terms and core definitions.

Summary of anticipated key changes

As a matter of principle, the design of the environmental management system must take into account the external and internal issues and interactions relevant to the organisation (context), the risks and opportunities arising therefrom and the needs and expectations of “interested parties”.

Another requirement emerging from the DIS is that the organisation’s established environmental policy will have to include the organisation’s specific commitment to protect the environment and improve environmental performance.

When determining the key environmental aspects the organisation must – within the scope of its knowledge and opportunities – pay more attention than in the past to the product life cycle (keyword: “Life-Cycle Thinking”), for example in the phases from raw-material acquisition/generation to design and development, production, transport, use and disposal.

In the future, the organisation will have to ensure that the environmental management system also covers all outsourced processes.

Overall, the use of performance indicators will play a greater role in future, with functions including assessment of the degree of compliance with environmental objectives and illustration of improvements in environmental performance, for example.

Regarding the documentation of the environmental management system which covers records and documents, the DIS indicates that the future standard will also include mandatory requirements. However, in this area, the revised standard will permit more flexibility and self-determination by the organisation.

How can you prepare?

It can be assumed that the basic positions of the ISO/ DIS 14001:2014 known today will remain unchanged. However, we must expect certain changes and additions to the standard to be realised during the period now following in which comments can still be made. The publication of the FDIS will bring final clarity.

A three-year transition period, during which both the old and the new standard will apply in parallel, is likely to be defined for the introduction and application of the ISO 14001:2015 standard. Organisations with environmental management systems should take timely measures to adjust their environmental systems to the new standard. As far as we can see at present, existing EMS will not have to be revised completely.

Possible impacts on the certification procedure (for example, the question of how certification can be upgraded to the new standard and what costs and efforts will be involved in such an upgrade) will have to be agreed with the accreditation body at a later stage. Of course, we will inform our clients accordingly.



How can we help you?

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The TÜV SÜD certification mark



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to environmental management.

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- **Improve your marketability and sales** – by applying the ISO 14001 certification to your corporate documents. This can also significantly improve your bargaining position when taking part in public and private green procurement tenders.
- **Reduce cost** – by minimising wastage throughout the supply chain, from materials to energy consumption. ISO 14001 certification can also contribute to significantly reducing your regulatory and environmental liability.
- **Enhance your reputation** – with an internationally recognised certificate from TÜV SÜD that promotes your brand image and company morale.

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Our international network of subsidiaries on every continent enables us to serve organisations worldwide and certify their compliance to ISO 14001 on a global scale. TÜV SÜD's experts hold various international and national accreditations to satisfy local requirements for combined auditing exercises. In addition, our auditors are required to follow a strict code of conduct that assures both you and your customers of our complete independence and professionalism.

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