



Environmental Management

ISO 14001 : 2026

What is ISO 14001?

ISO 14001:2026, published in April 2026, is the **latest update** of the international Environmental Management System (EMS) standard.

It provides a **structured framework** for managing and continuously **improving environmental performance**, covering areas such as environmental aspects and impacts, documentation, training, auditing, performance evaluation, leadership, and continuous improvement.

The standard helps organizations improve environmental performance while **supporting efficiency, cost reduction, and sustainable growth**.

The 2026 revision represents an evolution of the existing framework, reflecting growing expectations around **sustainability, risk management, and business resilience**.

This is particularly relevant in today's environment, shaped by:

- Higher ESG expectations
- More complex global supply chains
- Greater uncertainty and continuous change

The revision ensures **ISO 14001 remains practical, relevant, and aligned with modern business needs**.

Who needs ISO 14001?

ISO 14001 is relevant for any organization aiming to **reduce its environmental impact, meet legal and regulatory requirements**, and continuously improve environmental performance.

It provides a structured Environmental Management System (EMS) and independently **demonstrates a company's commitment to sustainability and responsible business practices**.

While not always mandatory, ISO 14001 is **increasingly a market expectation**. In many industries, **certification is already required** to do business with key customers and partners.

Even where it is not required, it **helps strengthen compliance**, build stakeholder trust, and clearly signal environmental responsibility to customers, suppliers, and other stakeholders.

Benefits of ISO 14001

ISO 14001 is designed to be practical and effective for **organizations of all sizes and industries**. By implementing an Environmental Management System (EMS), organizations can improve environmental performance while also **strengthening operational efficiency and business resilience**.

Key benefits of ISO 14001 include:

- Improved processes and operational efficiency
- Reduced waste, costs, and environmental impact
- Greater focus on proactive risk management
- Improved legal and regulatory compliance
- Stronger reputation and environmental credibility
- Increased customer and stakeholder confidence
- Higher employee engagement and awareness
- Enhanced competitiveness and new business opportunities
- Potential reductions in insurance and operational costs

Related services and products



Beyond your chosen ISO standard or IMS, IMSM offers **Internal Auditor Training** (one- or two-day courses) and tailored support packages for organizations of all sizes.



We cover **Internal Auditing, Management Review, and Audit Preparation**, giving you:

- Coverage where internal resources are limited, removing the need for an in-house auditor
- Objective, impartial assessment to strengthen management oversight
- A predictable programme supporting ongoing compliance and certification
- Confidence through IRCA-qualified (or equivalent) consultants
- A reliable solution for staff absence or resource changes



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“Without the standard, most contractors wanted us to complete large questionnaires, often up to around 40 pages long. Now we just tick one box saying we are ISO 14001 certified and that’s all they need to know.”

Philip Brown
Mantis Cranes

Want to know more?

Discover how **ISO 14001** can help your organisation reduce environmental impact and improve performance.

Contact your ISO specialists today or reach out below:
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