

Environmental management systems — Requirements with guidance for use

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English version

Environmental management systems - Requirements with
guidance for use (ISO 14001:2004)

Systèmes de management environnemental - Exigences et
lignes directrices pour son utilisation (ISO 14001:2004)

Umweltmanagementsysteme - Anforderungen mit
Anleitung zur Anwendung (ISO 14001:2004)

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**Environmental management systems —
Requirements with guidance for use**

*Systemes de management environnemental — Exigences et lignes
directrices pour son utilisation*



Reference number
ISO 14001:2004(E)

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Introduction

Organizations of all kinds are increasingly concerned with achieving and demonstrating sound environmental performance by controlling the impacts of their activities, products and services on the environment, consistent with their environmental policy and objectives. They do so in the context of increasingly stringent legislation, the development of economic policies and other measures that foster environmental protection, and increased concern expressed by interested parties about environmental matters and sustainable development.

Many organizations have undertaken environmental "reviews" or "audits" to assess their environmental performance. On their own, however, these "reviews" and "audits" may not be sufficient to provide an organization with the assurance that its performance not only meets, but will continue to meet, its legal and policy requirements. To be effective, they need to be conducted within a structured management system that is integrated within the organization.

International Standards covering environmental management are intended to provide organizations with the elements of an effective environmental management system (EMS) that can be integrated with other management requirements and help organizations achieve environmental and economic goals. These standards, like other International Standards, are not intended to be used to create non-tariff trade barriers or to increase or change an organization's legal obligations.

This International Standard specifies requirements for an environmental management system to enable an organization to develop and implement a policy and objectives which take into account legal requirements and information about significant environmental aspects. It is intended to apply to all types and sizes of organization and to accommodate diverse geographical, cultural and social conditions. The basis of the approach is shown in Figure 1. The success of the system depends on commitment from all levels and functions of the organization, and especially from top management. A system of this kind enables an organization to develop an environmental policy, establish objectives and processes to achieve the policy commitments, take action as needed to improve its performance and demonstrate the conformity of the system to the requirements of this International Standard. The overall aim of this International Standard is to support environmental protection and prevention of pollution in balance with socio-economic needs. It should be noted that many of the requirements can be addressed concurrently or revisited at any time.

The second edition of this International Standard is focused on clarification of the first edition, and has taken due consideration of the provisions of ISO 9001 to enhance the compatibility of the two standards for the benefit of the user community.

For ease of use, the subclause numbers in Clause 4 of the body of this International Standard and in Annex A have been related. For example, 4.3.3 and A.3.3 both deal with objectives, targets and programme(s), and 4.5.5 and A.5.5 both deal with internal audit. In addition, Annex B identifies broad technical correspondences between ISO 14001:2004 and ISO 9001:2000 and *vice versa*.

There is an important distinction between this International Standard, which describes the requirements for an organization's environmental management system and can be used for certification/registration and/or self-declaration of an organization's environmental management system, and a non-certifiable guideline intended to provide generic assistance to an organization for establishing, implementing or improving an environmental management system. Environmental management encompasses a full range of issues, including those with strategic and competitive implications. Demonstration of successful implementation of this International Standard can be used by an organization to assure interested parties that an appropriate environmental management system is in place.

Guidance on supporting environmental management techniques is contained in other International Standards, particularly those on environmental management in the documents established by ISO/TC 207. Any reference to other International Standards is for information only.

available techniques, where appropriate and where economically viable, and fully take into account the cost-effectiveness of such techniques.

This International Standard does not include requirements specific to other management systems, such as those for quality, occupational health and safety, financial or risk management, though its elements can be aligned or integrated with those of other management systems. It is possible for an organization to adapt its existing management system(s) in order to establish an environmental management system that conforms to the requirements of this International Standard. It is pointed out, however, that the application of various elements of the management system might differ depending on the intended purpose and the interested parties involved.

The level of detail and complexity of the environmental management system, the extent of documentation and the resources devoted to it depend on a number of factors, such as the scope of the system, the size of an organization and the nature of its activities, products and services. This may be the case in particular for small and medium-sized enterprises.

Environmental management systems — Requirements with guidance for use

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies requirements for an environmental management system to enable an organization to develop and implement a policy and objectives which take into account legal requirements and other requirements to which the organization subscribes, and information about significant environmental aspects. It applies to those environmental aspects that the organization identifies as those which it can control and those which it can influence. It does not itself state specific environmental performance criteria.

This International Standard is applicable to any organization that wishes to

- a) establish, implement, maintain and improve an environmental management system,
- b) assure itself of conformity with its stated environmental policy,
- c) demonstrate conformity with this International Standard by
 - 1) making a self-determination and self-declaration, or
 - 2) seeking confirmation of its conformance by parties having an interest in the organization, such as customers, or
 - 3) seeking confirmation of its self-declaration by a party external to the organization, or
 - 4) seeking certification/registration of its environmental management system by an external organization.

All the requirements in this International Standard are intended to be incorporated into any environmental management system. The extent of the application depends on factors such as the environmental policy of the organization, the nature of its activities, products and services and the location where and the conditions in which it functions. This International Standard also provides, in Annex A, informative guidance on its use.

2 Normative references

No normative references are cited. This clause is included in order to retain clause numbering identical with the previous edition (ISO 14001:1996).

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1

auditor

person with the competence to conduct an audit

[ISO 9000:2000, 3.9.9]

3.2

continual improvement

recurring process of enhancing the **environmental management system** (3.8) in order to achieve improvements in overall **environmental performance** (3.10) consistent with the **organization's** (3.16) **environmental policy** (3.11)

3.11

environmental policy

overall intentions and direction of an **organization** (3.16) related to its **environmental performance** (3.10) as formally expressed by top management

NOTE The environmental policy provides a framework for action and for the setting of **environmental objectives** (3.9) and **environmental targets** (3.12).

3.12

environmental target

detailed performance requirement, applicable to the **organization** (3.16) or parts thereof, that arises from the **environmental objectives** (3.9) and that needs to be set and met in order to achieve those objectives

3.13

interested party

person or group concerned with or affected by the **environmental performance** (3.10) of an **organization** (3.16)

3.14

internal audit

systematic, independent and documented process for obtaining audit evidence and evaluating it objectively to determine the extent to which the environmental management system audit criteria set by the **organization** (3.16) are fulfilled

NOTE In many cases, particularly in smaller organizations, independence can be demonstrated by the freedom from responsibility for the activity being audited.

3.15

nonconformity

non-fulfilment of a requirement

[ISO 9000:2000, 3.6.2]

3.16

organization

company, corporation, firm, enterprise, authority or institution, or part or combination thereof, whether incorporated or not, public or private, that has its own functions and administration

NOTE For organizations with more than one operating unit, a single operating unit may be defined as an organization.

3.17

preventive action

action to eliminate the cause of a potential **nonconformity** (3.15)

3.18

prevention of pollution

use of processes, practices, techniques, materials, products, services or energy to avoid, reduce or control (separately or in combination) the creation, emission or discharge of any type of pollutant or waste, in order to reduce adverse **environmental impacts** (3.7)

NOTE Prevention of pollution can include source reduction or elimination, process, product or service changes, efficient use of resources, material and energy substitution, reuse, recovery, recycling, reclamation and treatment.

3.19

procedure

specified way to carry out an activity or a process

NOTE 1 Procedures can be documented or not.

NOTE 2 Adapted from ISO 9000:2000, 3.4.5.

4.3.2 Legal and other requirements

The organization shall establish, implement and maintain a procedure(s)

- a) to identify and have access to the applicable legal requirements and other requirements to which the organization subscribes related to its environmental aspects, and
- b) to determine how these requirements apply to its environmental aspects.

The organization shall ensure that these applicable legal requirements and other requirements to which the organization subscribes are taken into account in establishing, implementing and maintaining its environmental management system.

4.3.3 Objectives, targets and programme(s)

The organization shall establish, implement and maintain documented environmental objectives and targets, at relevant functions and levels within the organization.

The objectives and targets shall be measurable, where practicable, and consistent with the environmental policy, including the commitments to prevention of pollution, to compliance with applicable legal requirements and with other requirements to which the organization subscribes, and to continual improvement.

When establishing and reviewing its objectives and targets, an organization shall take into account the legal requirements and other requirements to which the organization subscribes, and its significant environmental aspects. It shall also consider its technological options, its financial, operational and business requirements, and the views of interested parties.

The organization shall establish, implement and maintain a programme(s) for achieving its objectives and targets. Programme(s) shall include

- a) designation of responsibility for achieving objectives and targets at relevant functions and levels of the organization, and
- b) the means and time-frame by which they are to be achieved.

4.4 Implementation and operation

4.4.1 Resources, roles, responsibility and authority

Management shall ensure the availability of resources essential to establish, implement, maintain and improve the environmental management system. Resources include human resources and specialized skills, organizational infrastructure, technology and financial resources.

Roles, responsibilities and authorities shall be defined, documented and communicated in order to facilitate effective environmental management.

The organization's top management shall appoint a specific management representative(s) who, irrespective of other responsibilities, shall have defined roles, responsibilities and authority for

- a) ensuring that an environmental management system is established, implemented and maintained in accordance with the requirements of this International Standard,
- b) reporting to top management on the performance of the environmental management system for review, including recommendations for improvement.

4.4.2 Competence, training and awareness

The organization shall ensure that any person(s) performing tasks for it or on its behalf that have the potential to cause a significant environmental impact(s) identified by the organization is (are) competent on the basis of appropriate education, training or experience, and shall retain associated records.

- f) ensure that documents of external origin determined by the organization to be necessary for the planning and operation of the environmental management system are identified and their distribution controlled, and
- g) prevent the unintended use of obsolete documents and apply suitable identification to them if they are retained for any purpose.

4.4.6 Operational control

The organization shall identify and plan those operations that are associated with the identified significant environmental aspects consistent with its environmental policy, objectives and targets, in order to ensure that they are carried out under specified conditions, by

- a) establishing, implementing and maintaining a documented procedure(s) to control situations where their absence could lead to deviation from the environmental policy, objectives and targets, and
- b) stipulating the operating criteria in the procedure(s), and
- c) establishing, implementing and maintaining procedures related to the identified significant environmental aspects of goods and services used by the organization and communicating applicable procedures and requirements to suppliers, including contractors.

4.4.7 Emergency preparedness and response

The organization shall establish, implement and maintain a procedure(s) to identify potential emergency situations and potential accidents that can have an impact(s) on the environment and how it will respond to them.

The organization shall respond to actual emergency situations and accidents and prevent or mitigate associated adverse environmental impacts.

The organization shall periodically review and, where necessary, revise its emergency preparedness and response procedures, in particular, after the occurrence of accidents or emergency situations.

The organization shall also periodically test such procedures where practicable.

4.5 Checking

4.5.1 Monitoring and measurement

The organization shall establish, implement and maintain a procedure(s) to monitor and measure, on a regular basis, the key characteristics of its operations that can have a significant environmental impact. The procedure(s) shall include the documenting of information to monitor performance, applicable operational controls and conformity with the organization's environmental objectives and targets.

The organization shall ensure that calibrated or verified monitoring and measurement equipment is used and maintained and shall retain associated records.

4.5.2 Evaluation of compliance

4.5.2.1 Consistent with its commitment to compliance, the organization shall establish, implement and maintain a procedure(s) for periodically evaluating compliance with applicable legal requirements.

The organization shall keep records of the results of the periodic evaluations.

4.5.2.2 The organization shall evaluate compliance with other requirements to which it subscribes. The organization may wish to combine this evaluation with the evaluation of legal compliance referred to in 4.5.2.1 or to establish a separate procedure(s).

The organization shall keep records of the results of the periodic evaluations.

4.6 Management review

Top management shall review the organization's environmental management system, at planned intervals, to ensure its continuing suitability, adequacy and effectiveness. Reviews shall include assessing opportunities for improvement and the need for changes to the environmental management system, including the environmental policy and environmental objectives and targets. Records of the management reviews shall be retained.

Input to management reviews shall include

- a) results of internal audits and evaluations of compliance with legal requirements and with other requirements to which the organization subscribes, *redbook*
- b) communication(s) from external interested parties, including complaints, ✓✓
- c) the environmental performance of the organization, ✓✓
- d) the extent to which objectives and targets have been met, ✓✓
- e) status of corrective and preventive actions, ✓✓
- f) follow-up actions from previous management reviews, ✓✓
- g) changing circumstances, including developments in legal and other requirements related to its environmental aspects, and ✓
- h) recommendations for improvement. ✓

The outputs from management reviews shall include any decisions and actions related to possible changes to environmental policy, objectives, targets and other elements of the environmental management system, consistent with the commitment to continual improvement.

scope is intended to clarify the boundaries of the organization to which the environmental management system will apply, especially if the organization is a part of a larger organization at a given location. Once the scope is defined, all activities, products and services of the organization within that scope need to be included in the environmental management system. When setting the scope, it should be noted that the credibility of the environmental management system will depend upon the choice of organizational boundaries. If a part of an organization is excluded from the scope of its environmental management system, the organization should be able to explain the exclusion. If this International Standard is implemented for a specific operating unit, policies and procedures developed by other parts of the organization can be used to meet the requirements of this International Standard, provided that they are applicable to that specific operating unit.

A.2 Environmental policy

The environmental policy is the driver for implementing and improving an organization's environmental management system so that it can maintain and potentially improve its environmental performance. This policy should therefore reflect the commitment of top management to comply with applicable legal requirements and other requirements, to prevent pollution and to continually improve. The environmental policy forms the basis upon which the organization sets its objectives and targets. The environmental policy should be sufficiently clear to be able to be understood by internal and external interested parties, and should be periodically reviewed and revised to reflect changing conditions and information. Its area of application (i.e. scope) should be clearly identifiable and should reflect the unique nature, scale and environmental impacts of the activities, products and services within the defined scope of the environmental management system.

The environmental policy should be communicated to all persons who work for, or on behalf of, the organization, including contractors working at an organization's facility. Communication to contractors can be in alternative forms to the policy statement itself, such as rules, directives and procedures, and may therefore only include pertinent sections of the policy. The organization's environmental policy should be defined and documented by its top management within the context of the environmental policy of any broader corporate body of which it is a part, and with the endorsement of that body.

NOTE Top management usually consists of a person or group of people who direct and control an organization at the highest level.

A.3 Planning

A.3.1 Environmental aspects

Subclause 4.3.1 is intended to provide a process for an organization to identify environmental aspects, and to determine those that are significant which should be addressed as a priority by the organization's environmental management system.

An organization should identify the environmental aspects within the scope of its environmental management system, taking into account the inputs and outputs (both intended and unintended) associated with its current and relevant-past activities, products and services, planned or new developments, or new or modified activities, products and services. This process should consider normal and abnormal operating conditions, shut-down and start-up conditions, as well as reasonably foreseeable emergency situations.

Organizations do not have to consider each product, component or raw material input individually. They may select categories of activities, products and services to identify their environmental aspects.

Although there is no single approach for identifying environmental aspects, the approach selected could for example consider

- a) emissions to air,
- b) releases to water,
- c) releases to land,
- d) use of raw materials and natural resources,

This process of identifying and evaluating environmental aspects is not intended to change or increase an organization's legal obligations.

A.3.2 Legal and other requirements

The organization needs to identify the legal requirements that are applicable to its environmental aspects. These may include

- a) national and international legal requirements,
- b) state/provincial/departmental legal requirements,
- c) local governmental legal requirements.

Examples of other requirements to which the organization may subscribe include, if applicable,

- agreements with public authorities,
- agreements with customers,
- non-regulatory guidelines,
- voluntary principles or codes of practice,
- voluntary environmental labelling or product stewardship commitments,
- requirements of trade associations,
- agreements with community groups or non-governmental organizations,
- public commitments of the organization or its parent organization,
- corporate/company requirements.

The determination of how legal and other requirements apply to an organization's environmental aspects is usually accomplished in the process of identifying these requirements. It may not be necessary, therefore, to have a separate or additional procedure in order to make this determination.

A.3.3 Objectives, targets and programme(s)

The objectives and targets should be specific and measurable wherever practicable. They should cover short- and long-term issues.

When considering its technological options, an organization should consider the use of best-available techniques where economically viable, cost-effective and judged appropriate.

The reference to the financial requirements of the organization is not intended to imply that organizations are obliged to use environmental cost-accounting methodologies.

The creation and use of one or more programmes is important to the successful implementation of an environmental management system. Each programme should describe how the organization's objectives and targets will be achieved, including timescales, necessary resources and personnel responsible for implementing the programme(s). This (these) programme(s) may be subdivided to address specific elements of the organization's operations.

The programme should include, where appropriate and practical, consideration of planning, design, production, marketing and disposal stages. This may be undertaken for both current and new activities, products or services. For products, this can address design, materials, production processes, use and ultimate disposal. For installations or significant modifications of processes, this can address planning, design, construction, commissioning, operation and, at the appropriate time determined by the organization, decommissioning.

The organization may wish to plan its communication taking into account the decisions made on relevant target groups, the appropriate messages and subjects, and the choice of means.

When considering external communication about environmental aspects, organizations should take into consideration the views and information needs of all interested parties. If the organization decides to communicate externally on its environmental aspects, the organization may establish a procedure to do so. This procedure could change depending on several factors including the type of information to be communicated, the target group and the individual circumstances of the organization. Methods for external communication can include annual reports, newsletters, websites and community meetings.

A.4.4 Documentation

The level of detail of the documentation should be sufficient to describe the environmental management system and how its parts work together, and to provide direction on where to obtain more detailed information on the operation of specific parts of the environmental management system. This documentation may be integrated with documentation of other systems implemented by the organization. It does not have to be in the form of a manual.

The extent of the environmental management system documentation may differ from one organization to another, depending on

- a) the size and type of organization and its activities, products or services,
- b) the complexity of processes and their interactions, and
- c) the competence of personnel.

Examples of documents include

- statements of policy, objectives and targets,
- information on significant environmental aspects,
- procedures,
- process information,
- organizational charts,
- internal and external standards,
- site emergency plans, and
- records.

Any decision to document procedure(s) should be based on issues such as

- the consequences, including those to the environment, of not doing so,
- the need to demonstrate compliance with legal and with other requirements to which the organization subscribes,
- the need to ensure that the activity is undertaken consistently,
- the advantages of doing so, which can include easier implementation through communication and training, easier maintenance and revision, less risk of ambiguity and deviations, and demonstrability and visibility,
- the requirements of this International Standard.

Documents originally created for purposes other than the environmental management system may be used as part of this system and, if so used, need to be referenced in the system.

Data collected from monitoring and measurement can be analysed to identify patterns and obtain information. Knowledge gained from this information can be used to implement corrective and preventive action.

Key characteristics are those that the organization needs to consider to determine how it is managing its significant environmental aspects, achieving objectives and targets, and improving environmental performance.

When necessary to ensure valid results, measuring equipment should be calibrated or verified at specified intervals, or prior to use, against measurement standards traceable to international or national measurement standards. If no such standards exist, the basis used for calibration should be recorded.

A.5.2 Evaluation of compliance

The organization should be able to demonstrate that it has evaluated compliance with the legal requirements identified, including applicable permits or licences.

The organization should be able to demonstrate that it has evaluated compliance with the other identified requirements to which it has subscribed.

A.5.3 Nonconformity, corrective action and preventive action

Depending on the nature of the nonconformity, by establishing procedures to deal with these requirements, organizations may be able to accomplish them with a minimum of formal planning, or it may be a more complex and long-term activity. Any documentation should be appropriate to the level of action.

A.5.4 Control of records

Environmental records can include, among others,

- a) complaint records,
- b) training records,
- c) process monitoring records,
- d) inspection, maintenance and calibration records,
- e) pertinent contractor and supplier records,
- f) incident reports,
- g) records of tests for emergency preparedness,
- h) audit results,
- i) management review results,
- j) external communications decision,
- k) records of applicable legal requirements,
- l) records of significant environmental aspects,
- m) records of environmental meetings,
- n) environmental performance information,
- o) legal compliance records, and
- p) communications with interested parties.

Proper account should be taken of confidential information.

NOTE Records are not the sole source of evidence to demonstrate conformity to this International Standard.

Annex B (informative)

Correspondence between ISO 14001:2004 and ISO 9001:2000

Table B.1 and Table B.2 identify broad technical correspondences between ISO 14001:2004 and ISO 9001:2000 and *vice versa*.

The objective of the comparison is to demonstrate that both systems can be used together for those organizations that already operate one of these International Standards and wish to operate both.

A direct correspondence between subclauses of the two International Standards has only been established if the two subclauses are largely congruent in requirements. Beyond that, many detailed cross-connections of minor relevance exist which could not be shown here.

Table B.1 — Correspondence between ISO 14001:2004 and ISO 9001:2000

ISO 14001:2004		ISO 9001:2000	
Environmental management system requirements (title only)	4	4	Quality management system (title only)
General requirements	4.1	4.1	General requirements
Environmental policy	4.2	5.1	Management commitment
		5.3	Quality policy
		8.5.1	Continual improvement
Planning (title only)	4.3	5.4	Planning (title only)
Environmental aspects	4.3.1	5.2	Customer focus
		7.2.1	Determination of requirements related to the product
		7.2.2	Review of requirements related to the product
Legal and other requirements	4.3.2	5.2	Customer focus
		7.2.1	Determination of requirements related to the product
Objectives, targets and programme(s)	4.3.3	5.4.1	Quality objectives
		5.4.2	Quality management system planning
		8.5.1	Continual improvement
Implementation and operation (title only)	4.4	7	Product realization (title only)
Resources, roles, responsibility and authority	4.4.1	5.1	Management commitment
		5.5.1	Responsibility and authority
		5.5.2	Management representative
		6.1	Provision of resources
		6.3	Infrastructure
Competence, training and awareness	4.4.2	6.2.1	(Human resources) General
		6.2.2	Competence, awareness and training
Communication	4.4.3	5.5.3	Internal communication
		7.2.3	Customer communication
Documentation	4.4.4	4.2.1	(Documentation requirements) General
Control of documents	4.4.5	4.2.3	Control of documents

Table B.2 — Correspondence between ISO 9001:2000 and ISO 14001:2004

ISO 9001:2000		ISO 14001:2004	
Quality management system (title only)	4	4	Environmental management system requirements
General requirements	4.1	4.1	General requirements
Documentation requirements (title only)	4.2		
General	4.2.1	4.4.4	Documentation
Quality manual	4.2.2		
Control of documents	4.2.3	4.4.5	Control of documents
Control of records	4.2.4	4.5.4	Control of records
Management responsibility (title only)	5		
Management commitment	5.1	4.2 4.4.1	Environmental policy Resources, roles, responsibility and authority
Customer focus	5.2	4.3.1 4.3.2 4.6	Environmental aspects Legal and other requirements Management review
Quality policy	5.3	4.2	Environmental policy
Planning (title only)	5.4	4.3	Planning
Quality objectives	5.4.1	4.3.3	Objectives, targets and programme(s)
Quality management system planning	5.4.2	4.3.3	Objectives, targets and programme(s)
Responsibility, authority and communication (title only)	5.5		
Responsibility and authority	5.5.1	4.4.1	Resources, roles, responsibility and authority
Management representative	5.5.2	4.4.1	Resources, roles, responsibility and authority
Internal communication	5.5.3	4.4.3	Communication
Management review (title only)	5.6		
General	5.6.1	4.6	Management review
Review input	5.6.2	4.6	Management review
Review output	5.6.3	4.6	Management review
Resource management (title only)	6		
Provision of resources	6.1	4.4.1	Resources, roles, responsibility and authority
Human resources (title only)	6.2		
General	6.2.1	4.4.2	Competence, training and awareness
Competence, awareness and training	6.2.2	4.4.2	Competence, training and awareness
Infrastructure	6.3	4.4.1	Resources, roles, responsibility and authority
Work environment	6.4		
Product realization (title only)	7	4.4	Implementation and operation
Planning of product realization	7.1	4.4.6	Operational control
Customer-related processes (title only)	7.2		
Determination of requirements related to the product	7.2.1	4.3.1 4.3.2 4.4.6	Environmental aspects Legal and other requirements Operational control
Review of requirements related to the product	7.2.2	4.3.1 4.4.6	Environmental aspects Operational control
Customer communication	7.2.3	4.4.3	Communication

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