



ISO 14001: Answering your frequently asked questions



Frequently asked questions

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1. What is ISO 14001?

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ISO 14001 specifies the requirements for an environmental management system that organizations can use to improve environmental performance.

ISO 14001 helps organizations proactively manage their environmental impact through a commitment to pollution prevention, legal compliance, and continual improvement.

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2. What are the benefits of ISO 14001?

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Environmental legislation compliance

ISO 14001 certification can help you comply with legal requirements by providing a systematic approach for addressing current and identifying future legislation.

Improved management of environmental risk

ISO 14001 can help to manage and improve performance in key metric areas such as lower energy usage, waste reduction, increased recycling, and lower raw material and consumable costs. This reduces the need for reactive strategies such as clean-ups and litigation, which can result in reputational damage and legal proceedings.

Increased credibility

Being independently assessed against ISO 14001:2015 increases your credibility and provides a competitive edge over non-certified businesses when invited to tender.

Risk management

Certification to ISO 14001:2015 can help you demonstrate you are managing environmental risks and are making continual improvements against specific targets.

Cost reduction

By promoting continual improvement against environmental objectives, ISO 14001 can help drive more efficient use of raw materials and enhanced performance leading to cost reductions.



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3. Why is ISO 14001 important?

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ISO 14001 supports the changing needs of today's world, reflects the increasingly complex environment in which organizations operate, and emphasizes proactively improving environmental performance by embedding environmental management within an organization's strategic plans.

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5. Can I integrate ISO 14001 with other management systems?

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ISO 14001: 2015 follows the Annex SL framework, the high-level structure for modern ISO Standards. The Annex SL structure ensures consistency and compatibility between the different management system standards and allows for a straightforward and harmonised implementation of multiple standards (integrated management systems). ISO 14001 easily integrates with all new and revised ISO management system standards, such as ISO 9001 and ISO 45001 and ISO 27001.

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4. How do I get ISO 14001?

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If you are interested in gaining certification to ISO 14001, we can help. LRQA provides UKAS accredited ISO 14001 certification, training and gap analysis services to meet the requirements of the international standard for environmental management systems.

LRQA specializes in management systems compliance, all underpinned by expert advice designed to meet the needs of your industry. We are committed to exploring every problem thoroughly with exact, analytical precision to draw accurate conclusions.

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6. When will ISO 14001 next be updated?

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The latest version of ISO 14001, the standard for environmental management systems, was released in 2015. In Autumn 2021, the committee responsible for ISO 14001 invited the public to answer a survey from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) on whether ISO 14001 should be revised. A decision is due to be made during the committee's next plenary session, which is set to take place in December 2022.



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By bringing together unrivalled expertise in certification, brand assurance, cybersecurity, inspection and training, we've become a leading global assurance provider.

We're proud of our heritage, but it's who we are today that really matters, because that's what shapes how we partner with our clients tomorrow. By combining strong values, decades of experience in risk management and mitigation, and a keen focus on the future, we're here to support our clients as they build safer, more secure, more sustainable businesses.

From independent auditing, certification and training; to technical advisory services; to real-time assurance technology; to data-driven supply chain transformation, our innovative end-to-end solutions help our clients negotiate a rapidly changing risk landscape – making sure they're shaping their own future, rather than letting it shape them.

Get in touch

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