

Five things you need to know about the ISO 14001 Draft International Standard



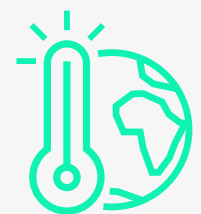
Get prepared for the next evolution of environmental management

ISO 14001, the world's most widely adopted environmental management system (EMS) standard, is undergoing revision. The Draft International Standard (DIS) introduces important updates that reflect the growing urgency of climate change, biodiversity loss and ecosystem resilience. While the standard's core structure remains, key changes signal a shift in expectations and a chance for organisations to embed sustainability more deeply into how they operate.

Here are five key updates from the DIS that you need to know now:

1. Stronger focus on environmental conditions

The revised standard introduces clearer expectations to identify and consider environmental conditions such as climate change, biodiversity and ecosystem health, both as risks and as factors your organisation may influence.



2. New clause for managing change

Clause 6.3 introduces a formal requirement to plan and manage changes that could affect the EMS. This is intended to ensure that changes are intentional, evaluated and aligned with your environmental objectives.



3. Language modernisation and clarity

Terminology has been refreshed to improve alignment with other ISO standards. For example:

- “Fulfil compliance obligations” becomes “Meet compliance obligations”
- “Maintain documented information” becomes “Available as documented information”
- “Outsourced processes” become “Externally provided processes, products or services”

These editorial updates do not introduce new requirements, but organisations will need to reflect them in their systems and documentation.



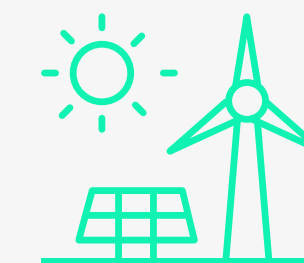
4. Clause 6.1 restructured for clarity

Planning requirements are now divided into clearer sections. Clause 6.1.4 focuses on identifying risks and opportunities, while Clause 6.1.5 covers the planning of related actions. Clause 10.1, which previously addressed general improvement, has been removed, with its intent integrated into other clauses.



5. Stronger connection to sustainability

The revised standard strengthens its alignment with broader sustainability goals. Top management is expected to play a more visible role in promoting environmental performance. The expectations of interested parties, particularly around climate and biodiversity, are given greater prominence.



Start now

Begin aligning your EMS with the draft requirements. **The sooner you act, the more confidently you can manage the transition.**

Next steps with LRQA

To support your transition:

- Sign up to LRQA's [Transition Club](#) for regular updates on ISO 14001, 9001 and 45001 and access early insights, tools and practical guidance to support your EMS updates
- Explore our dedicated [ISO 14001:2026 transition training](#) to help your team understand and implement the changes
- [Speak to our team of experts](#)

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Visit www.lrqa.com for more information or email enquiries@lrqa.com



LRQA
1 Trinity Park
Bickenhill Lane
Birmingham
B37 7ES
United Kingdom

