



ISO 14001:2015 - New Requirements



With over 300,000 certificates issued across the world, ISO 14001 is the best known standard for environmental management. Indeed there are nearly 18,000 in the UK, an increase of 8% in the past year.

Initially released in 1996, it was last reviewed in late 2015. The **deadline** for updating your existing EMS to the new standard is **September 2018**.

What are the Major Changes?

There are a number of changes with the new standard, the major ones being:

- Consider the **context of the organisation** to identify the internal & external factors and conditions that affect the organisation. Identify the **interested parties** and any requirements they have.
- Top management must demonstrate **leadership**, ensuring that the environmental policy & objectives are consistent with the overall business strategy. Management review outputs should include any implications for the **strategic direction** of the organisation.
- Identify the effect of uncertainty associated with **risks and opportunities** and take action to address them.
- Consider a **life cycle perspective** when identifying aspects and impacts.
- Consider environmental requirements throughout the **procurement** and **design** activities of your products and services.
- New emphasis on the need for **evaluation of performance**, as well as current requirements for measurement and analysis.



My Top Tips for a Smooth Transition

With only a year until the deadline, you need to be thinking about transitioning your existing EMS Environmental Management System to the new standard and the best way is to work together to review and improve the EMS.

- Start with a **Gap Analysis** of your current Environmental Management System
- Don't do it all alone – run exercises with colleagues & senior management – get them on board to identify risks & opportunities

- Think about changes to documentation needed – this is an opportunity to streamline things & make the improvements you’ve been thinking about
- Plan your transition – the deadline will loom very quickly if you’re not careful.

I have worked with a number of organisations (large & small) and spoken to many others. They tell me the leadership and lifecycle elements of the new standard are the ones they find the **biggest challenge**.



To help you with your ISO 14001 EMS, I provide three services:

- Gap Analysis – to get started & know what to do next
- Transition work – help you update your EMS
- Readiness Assessment – review your work prior to certification

Gap Analysis

The Gap Analysis will identify where your EMS needs to change - giving a RAG rating (Red Amber Green) for each issue and a transition plan, with actions & timescales.

The Gap Analysis covers all clauses of the new standard, with specific focus on:

- Context of the organisation & Scope of the EMS; Compliance obligations; Interested parties & communications; Leadership; Life cycle perspective; Data management & environmental performance (including policy & objectives).

Transition to the new Standard

Next steps are to deliver the Gap Analysis action plan, including:

- Conduct exercises with staff e.g. covering Context and Interested Parties
- Liaise with top management on their strategic direction
- Agree on objectives & new targets, with associated data requirements
- Internal audit
- Update the EMS core documentation, including policy, manual & key procedures.

Readiness Assessment

This is for those organisations which have done the transition themselves, but want to double check everything is covered before committing to certification. It is useful to get an outside perspective on how the EMS has changed and whether it properly meets the new standard’s requirements, so you don’t have any nasty surprises from the certification auditor.



"Whilst Roband has always been environmentally conscious, it became apparent that formal recognition in the form of ISO14001 would be advantageous. ESHCon Ltd was engaged to implement our Environmental Management System. Actively involving staff along the way, Anya developed an EMS that was tailored to suit the company and guided us through the process to successful certification to ISO14001 (both the 2004 & 2015 standards), which has now become a key requirement for our customers. We were very pleased with the service."

– Andrew Gold, Managing Director at Roband Electronics

About ESHCon - Anya Ledwith (CEnv)

I am an experienced business adviser and auditor, with over 20 years of leadership in the field of environmental management. A Chartered Environmentalist, a Registered Environmental Auditor & a Lead ESOS Assessor, it is *my mission is to make environmental management the business norm*. With expert advice and a pragmatic approach, I make it easy for clients to find improvements and see the commercial benefit. Away from work, I am the Chairman of Gatwick Diamond Business and volunteer for the Sussex Community Foundation. For adventure, I rode a classic motorcycle across the Himalayas.

Do Get in Touch to discuss your needs & find out how I can help



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