



ESHCON INFO

ISO 14001 & ISO 9001

Combining your Environmental & Quality Management Systems

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ESHCON

EFFECTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Reducing risk, promoting efficiency, saving money & winning business:
This is Effective Environmental Management

Combining your EMS & QMS

Got quality, now want environment?

A number of my clients have a functioning Quality Management System, often certified to ISO 9001, and now want to manage their environmental impacts.

Rather than starting with a blank piece of paper, it would make sense to use the existing system & bring in the requirements of ISO 14001.



The New ISOs

Many of the ISO standards have changed recently, deliberately using the same *high level structure* (HLS) so that management systems can now be more easily merged – processes, responsibilities & documentation can be fully integrated. This reduces the amount of time and effort needed to fulfil the requirements.

While there are differences between the two standards (such as environment-specific requirements in ISO 14001), they revolve around 10 common clauses:

Clause 1 – Scope	Clause 2 – Normative references
Clause 3 – Terms and definitions	Clause 4 – Context of the organisation
Clause 5 – Leadership	Clause 6 – Planning
Clause 7 – Support	Clause 8 – Operation
Clause 9 – Performance evaluation	Clause 10 – Improvement

An integrated system is typically characterized by the following:

- policy & objectives requirements are aligned;
- there is an integrated approach to systems processes, responsibilities & documentation;
- audit can be combined, tracking audit findings & identifying trends (although beware that auditors are experienced enough in environmental issues & legislation);
- there is a combined Management Review that consider the overall business strategy.

The benefits of integrating QMS & EMS

There are many advantages for organisations, including:

The business processes for both quality & environmental performance are integrated and aligned with business strategy, bringing **improved business performance**. This holistic approach increases efficiency, develops coordinated solutions to problems in different work areas, and provides a complete view of the whole organisation.

With so many overlaps between the two standards, this reduces unnecessary **documentation and duplication**, making the systems easier to manage and maintain.

Time & resources are saved. The audit process particularly will be more effective resulting in less disruption (this applies to both internal and external audits).

How the two standards overlap

Clause 4: Context of the organisation

Both standards require a look at the context of the organisation (what affects it & is affected by it), also the needs & expectations of interested parties. Although some of these might be relevant to the QMS, those relating to the environment can be more detailed.

Clause 5: Leadership

Both standards require top management to take a greater role & ensure the system is aligned to the business strategy. They are responsible for owning the policy & objectives. They must give support and resources, and ensure that the importance of an effective QMS/EMS is communicated. By integrating the two systems, the time needed from top management can be significantly reduced.

Clause 6: Planning

This clause requires the identification of risks and opportunities; both standards are now more explicit about the use of risk-based thinking. A risk register for both systems can reduce the paper burden.

Clause 7: Support

This requires adequate resources for the management system & that information is appropriately stored & communicated. Both standards cover competency, awareness & communication, also good management of 'documented information'. In ISO 9001, clause 7.1 focuses much more on consistency and quality of products or services, referring to measurement, traceability & calibration.

Clause 8: Operation

This clause is where the two standards have significant yet logical differences. ISO 14001 covers particularly emergency preparedness & considering a 'lifecycle perspective'. ISO 9001 focuses on customer requirements, & the development of products & services. Both standards recognise the increased use of outsourced functions requiring the impact of this to be considered.

Clause 9: Performance evaluation

This is all about keeping the organisation on track, though the two standards have some important differences. In clause 9.1, ISO 14001 deals with measuring environmental performance (against objectives & KPIs) including issues related to compliance, whilst ISO 9001 concentrates on measuring the effectiveness of the QMS, with a focus on ensuring customer satisfaction. Both standards however require internal audit and a management review.

Clause 10: Improvement

In both standards, this clause covers identifying opportunities to make the system better, raising non-conformities & corrective actions.

So if you have a Quality Management System, **what are the extras you particularly need to focus on** to incorporate your Environmental Management System?

- Understanding your activities & environmental aspects, so allowing you to produce your Aspects & Impacts Register. This needs to take a lifecycle approach, so that the EMS considers all stages of the lifecycle of your products &/or services, not just operations.
- You must understand your compliance obligations, conducting a legislation review & producing your compliance register.
- Linking back to your risks, a focus on emergency preparedness & response is needed.

Of course there will be differences in the detail (e.g. pollution control, compliance & environmental records) but using the core of a combined management system means there is less duplication of effort.

Let me help you integrate your two systems.

What you need to do now

Scope, Policy & Context

Ensure environmental considerations are included, particularly relating to objectives, risks, opportunities & interested parties.

Activities, Aspects & Impacts

Full review of activities relating to impacts, compliance obligations & lifecycle requirements.

Produce Aspects & Impacts Register (inc significance scoring) & Compliance Register.

Programme Objectives & Targets

Develop environmental Objectives, KPIs & targets.

Develop processes to collect, analyse & validate data.

Management System processes & documentation

Incorporate environment into QMS docs where appropriate, additional documents may be required

Ensure roles & responsibilities include environment (general or more specific) - Committee, individuals, Champions.

Consider on-site Operational Control (e.g. records, data, operations, legal requirements) – communication, procedures, supervision.

Audit

Amend Audit Programme & non-conformities tracking.

Train auditors in environmental issues, particular attention to legislation.

Conduct audits to cover all elements of ISO 14001.

Management Review

Include environment in agenda, data collection & review processes.



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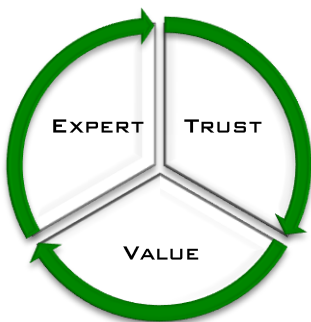


About Eshcon - Anya Ledwith (CEnv)

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



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"We engaged Eshcon Ltd to implement our ISO 14001 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](#)