



ISO 14001

Environmental Management Systems

The internationally recognised ISO 14001 Environmental Management System standard is based on the two concepts of continual improvement and regulatory compliance.

The generic standard is applicable to any type of organisation in any industry sector.

Increased awareness of sustainable development gives environmentally credible companies a competitive edge in national and international markets. Independent assessment and certification of your environmental management system by DNV gives a clear demonstration of your commitment to external and independent scrutiny. Companies are increasingly required to report on environmental performance. This makes it vital for you to demonstrate that your organisation delivers on its policy commitments.

What is the ISO 14001 standard?

- ISO 14001 is the international standard for environmental management systems, developed over 10 years ago and respected and recognised worldwide.

- The standard provides a clear management framework based on the well-established management principles of: Plan-Do-Check-Act. It requires an organisation to assess the operations impact on the environment, understand how those impacts can be managed, and set clear objectives and targets to continually improve on environmental performance. The standard also requires clearly defined processes and procedures to manage personnel and the activities that the organisation undertakes.
- The ISO 14001 standard requires an organisation to clearly understand the environmental legal requirements that apply to it, and also any other corporate and stakeholder obligations. These requirements then need to be managed by the organisation, and their compliance must be checked regularly.

The ISO 14001 standard has been designed to be compatible and harmonised with other international management system standards, including ISO 9001. It is therefore ideal for integration into existing management systems and processes. The nature of ISO 14001 allows it to be applied to the complete range of business sectors, scopes, and activities. In this respect it is a truly universal standard, and this is one of its great benefits.

Why is environmental management system certification good for my business?

The potential benefits of ISO 14001 are numerous, but the most significant are tangible and demonstrable improvements in environmental performance, and a greater level of assurance in the area of legal compliance.

The ISO 14001 standard enables your organisation to:

- Build and operate an environmental management system within a well-defined and clear framework, which at the same time is flexible to your own business needs and expectations.
- Provide a tool for environmental performance improvement and the means to effectively monitor and measure environmental performance.
- Facilitate reductions in pollution, waste, energy, injuries, and incidents.
- Better meet environmental legal compliance and corporate requirements.

An ISO 14001 certificate proves that your Environmental Management System has been measured against the standard and found compliant. Many regulatory authorities and other organisations recognise the value of an environmental management system based on ISO 14001, especially if the system has been externally assessed and certified by an accredited certification body such as DNV.

How can I prepare for certification?

It is important that you and your company are positive, committed, and set clear target dates for implementation and assessment. Companies that plan well will often have an advantage and be prepared for certification. This includes:

- Identifying environmental aspects.
- Identifying applicable legal requirements.
- Establishing objectives, targets, and improvement programmes.

Before certification starts, your company should perform internal audits to identify potential gaps, or contract a third party to perform a preliminary assessment.

One of the most important things to remember is that development, implementation, and certification of an environmental management system is a continuous journey, with the independent audit representing one element of a continuous improvement process.

Risk Based Certification™ – tailored to your company's unique needs

DNV's Risk Based Certification methodology aims to provide more value to you and your company through focused audits. We start by asking you to tell us what your most significant environmental risks are. Then, after discussions to agree on certain focus areas, we tailor the audit to address especially these identified processes. This is vital in assisting your company to identify key improvement areas.

By providing focused and structured information to top management on the organisation's ability to meet objectives, we offer more value than any other certification body.