



ISO 14001:2026

Environmental Management Systems

*Your trusted standard,
clearer than ever*

iso.org



Why ISO 14001 matters more than ever

Today's organizations face growing environmental challenges, from climate change and biodiversity loss to resource scarcity and rising stakeholder expectations.

ISO 14001, *Environmental Management Systems* is the globally recognized standard that helps organizations manage environmental responsibilities systematically, supporting long-term sustainability.

The new edition of ISO 14001 – coming in 2026 – updates a trusted framework that helps organizations of all types and sizes **manage their environmental responsibilities systematically and effectively.**



What's new: same trusted foundation, simpler guidance

The world's most widely used environmental management systems (EMS) standard is evolving. The 2026 edition of ISO 14001 introduces **editorial improvements** that make the standard **easier to understand, implement, and integrate** with other management systems. It also strengthens links to broader sustainability goals and clarifies how environmental conditions both affect and are affected by your organization.

Sharper focus on environmental sustainability

Updated introduction and guidance offer stronger alignment with today's environmental priorities such as climate action, biodiversity and resource efficiency. New guidance helps organizations consider how their local environmental conditions (e.g. climate change effects, biodiversity loss, water availability) affect their operations – and vice versa.

Taking business decisions into account

ISO 14001:2026 reinforces what matters most: environmental protection and business outcomes. The updated standard empowers organizations everywhere to improve

performance, cut costs and stay compliant, while building credibility and making a tangible difference for the planet. The standard now clarifies how environmental management should align with your organization's purpose, strategic direction, and risk-based thinking.

Improved terminology and usability

The 2026 edition benefits from better clarity and readability, making it easier for organizations of all sizes and sectors to interpret the requirements and implement the standard effectively. Terms such as 'meet compliance obligations' replace previous wording to ensure consistency across ISO standards. The harmonized structure makes integration with other management systems even smoother.

What hasn't changed

The core structure and intent of the standard remain the same. Organizations already certified to ISO 14001:2015 will find the transition smooth and straightforward.

Why environmental management matters

Organizations using ISO 14001 report benefits that go far beyond compliance:



Financial benefits

- Reduced operational costs through improved efficiency and waste reduction.
- Lower regulatory compliance costs and reduced legal risks.
- Access to new markets and customer segments who prioritize environmental responsibility.



Strategic advantages

- Enhanced credibility and stakeholder trust.
- Improved resilience to environmental risks and market disruptions.
- Better preparedness for future regulations.



Operational excellence

- More efficient processes and reduced waste.
- Improved employee engagement and culture.
- Enhanced environmental performance of suppliers by integrating them into the organization's business systems.

Get ready for ISO 14001:2026

While the final version will be available for purchase in 2026, organizations can already begin preparing by taking a few practical steps.

Stay informed

Check [iso.org](https://www.iso.org) for latest updates on when the new edition is published. Keep in touch with your national standards body or certification provider for updates on the release and transition guidance.

Engage your team

Raise awareness internally that a new edition is coming, and that it will focus on clarity, sustainability, and integration, not new obligations. Those already familiar with ISO 14001:2015 will find the transition smooth and seamless.

Review your current EMS

Consider whether your documentation and processes are already aligned with best practices, especially around lifecycle thinking, environmental conditions, and integration of sustainability considerations with business strategy.

Plan for a smooth transition

Once the new edition is published, allocate time to review the changes in full and update your system accordingly.

Getting certified

While ISO develops and publishes standards, **it does not perform certification.**

Certification is not a requirement; however, it is a way of signalling to your buyers, customers, and other stakeholders that you have implemented the standard properly.

Find out more: [iso.org/certification.html](https://www.iso.org/certification.html)

A clearer path to environmental management – launching soon

Embrace the new standard to future-proof your organization, protect the planet, and strengthen trust with customers and partners

Learn more:

www.iso.org/sectors/environment/environmental-management





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