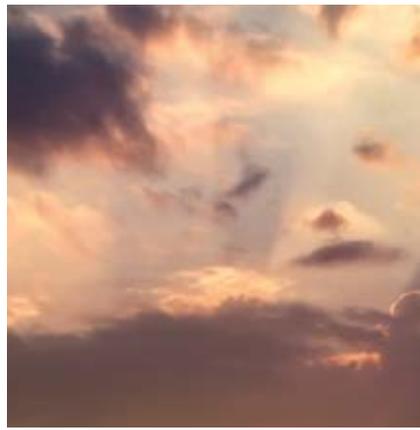
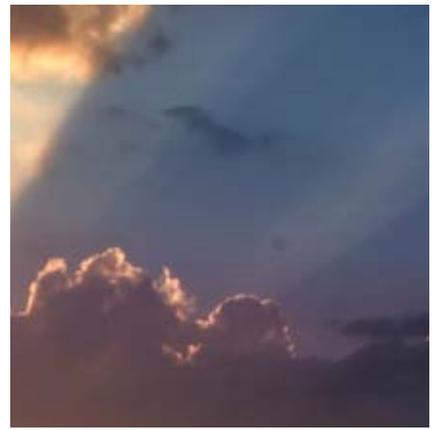


**LEADERSHIP**



**LIFECYCLE PERSPECTIVE**



**DOCUMENTATION**



**PROTECTION**



**FURTHER EXCELLENCE**



**RISK MANAGEMENT**



**PERFORMANCE**



**COMMUNICATION**



**REPUTATION**

**ISO 14001:2015 - UPDATE STANDARD ISSUED**



# REVISION PROCESS

The publication of ISO 14001:2015 in September 2015 is the final stage in the revision process of the standard. This version replaces ISO 14001:2004, though there is a 3 year transition period.

## NEW IN ISO 14001:2015

### STRUCTURE AND TERMINOLOGY

ISO 14001:2015 adopts the High Level Structure specified in ISO Annex SL which is now the required framework for all new and revised Management System Standards.

Benefits from utilizing the Annex SL structure are:

- Environmental Management Systems (EMS) requirements are presented in a more consistent, rational manner and not just simply offer a template for the elements of an organization's EMS
- The final version of ISO 14001 is aligned with other management systems standards (i.e. ISO 9001)
- Updated terminology and definitions, some in common with other Management Systems Standards.

### EMERGING CHANGES

The ISO team responsible for the revision process (subcommittee ISO/TC 207/SC1) has identified the following emerging changes as a result of their revision:

- Strategic Environmental Management
- Leadership
- Protecting the environment
- Environmental performance
- Lifecycle thinking
- Communication
- Documentation

You can find our brief analysis on each of the changes below.

### STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

There is a new requirement to understand the context of the organization determining external and internal issues relevant to the organization and the environment. Particular focus is on the needs and expectations of interested parties that can affect, or be affected by, the organization. In this context the organization shall identify risk associated with threats and opportunities, significant environmental aspects and compliance obligations, and determine actions to address them within the EMS.

### LEADERSHIP

A new clause has been added with specific responsibilities for Top Management to demonstrate their leadership and commitment to environmental management. Top Management may delegate this responsibility to others but retaining accountability.

### PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Policy shall include a commitment to the "protection of the environment". There is no definition about "protection" but there is a note stating that it includes "prevention of pollution" and "other" commitments such as sustainable resource use, climate change mitigation and adaptation, protection of biodiversity and ecosystems. The specific commitment of the organization should be relevant to its context.

### ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

The emphasis is on improving performance related to the management of environmental aspects. Now continual improvement is to enhance environmental

performance. The organization shall determine criteria to evaluate its environmental performance, using appropriate indicators.

### LIFECYCLE THINKING

Organizations will need to extend its control and influence to the environmental impacts from raw material acquisition/generation to end-of-life treatment. This does not imply a requirement to do a life cycle assessment (LCA), just thinking carefully about the stages of product/service that can be controlled or influenced.

### COMMUNICATION

Emphasis on internal and external communication, and equal treatment of both has been added. What, when, how to communicate is up to the organization. The decision to communicate externally is retained by the organization whilst always considering its compliance obligations. Consistent and reliable communications are required.

### DOCUMENTATION

The term 'documented information', is used instead of 'documents' and 'records'. The organization has the flexibility to determine when 'procedures' are needed. Any format (paper, cloud, etc.) would be valid.

### TRANSITION

Organizations already certified to ISO 14001:2004 have three years from publication of the new version in which to transfer, this transition period ends on September 2018.

# SGS SOLUTIONS FOR A SMOOTH TRANSITION

As the world's leading certification body and a professional learning and development organization, we offer you a variety of solutions during the transition process.

## TRAINING:

As part of our training portfolio for ISO 14001:2015, we have developed several courses to assist you in managing your own transition:

**Annex SL:** We will help you understand the high level structure of the new framework and how integration with other management system standards is becoming more efficient.

**ISO 14001:** An introduction to the changes in the new version and explains how this will impact your existing system.

**Risk-Based Thinking:** A course covering the principals that support the identification of risk and opportunities and the different techniques/methodologies needed to address them.

**Empowering Leadership:** A two day workshop addressing the skills needed by those operating in Quality, Environmental and Health and Safety roles for the forthcoming evolution of management systems standards and their respective commercial impacts.

## NEEDS ASSESSMENTS:

Our experts can carry out a gap analysis against the new requirements to make your transition smooth and transparent. This provides your organization with structured assistance by highlighting the extent that your existing systems and controls cover the requirements of ISO 14001:2015 and by identifying an implementation action plan where you need it.

## ISO 14001:2015 CERTIFICATION:

SGS will, of course, now be offering ISO 14001:2015 certification to both new and existing clients.

## WHY SGS?

SGS is the world's leading inspection, verification, testing and certification company. SGS is recognised as the global benchmark for quality and integrity. With more than 85,000 employees, SGS operates a network of over 1,800 offices and laboratories around the world.

We are constantly looking beyond customers' and society's expectations in order to deliver market leading

services wherever they are needed. We have a history of undertaking and successfully executing large-scale, complex international projects. With a presence in every single region around the globe, our people speak the language and understand the culture of the local market, and operate globally in a consistent, reliable and effective manner.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have any immediate questions relating to the ISO 14001:2015 Certification, our training courses (Annex SL, ISO 14001, Risk-Based Thinking, Empowering Leadership), Gap Analysis or need assistance, For more information, [please contact your local SGS office](#).

Additional information is also available via the following link: [\[BrainShark webinar\]](#)

**FOR AN OPTIMAL TRANSITION  
TOWARDS ISO 14001:2015 CONTACT  
[CERTIFICATION@SGS.COM](mailto:CERTIFICATION@SGS.COM) OR VISIT  
[WWW.SGS.COM/ISO14001-2015TRANSITION](http://WWW.SGS.COM/ISO14001-2015TRANSITION)**

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**WHEN YOU NEED TO BE SURE**

**SGS**