



ISO 14001:2026 explained

What is ISO 14001?

ISO 14001 is the world's leading standard for Environmental Management Systems (EMS).

Adopted by more than 300 000 organizations across 170 countries, it provides a framework to effectively manage environmental responsibilities, boost operational efficiency and strengthen credibility.

An update is expected in April 2026 to better address urgent environmental and business challenges.

Why is ISO 14001 changing?

ISO regularly updates and revises its standards. Many stakeholders expect more from environmental management in 2026.



Urgent action

Tackling climate change and building environmental resilience is more and more important to all stakeholders



Evolving regulations

Meeting new legal and reporting requirements is a key priority for companies



Digital transformation

Smarter, more innovative environmental management is expected



Rising stakeholder expectations

Across all sectors there is a strong demand for transparent and clear communication about environmental sustainability

What's new

- **Stronger climate focus:** Puts more emphasis on climate-related risks and opportunities within EMS, including adaptation measures and contributions to climate goals
- **Enhanced life cycle perspective:** Adds consideration of impacts across the entire value chain, from raw materials to end-of-life, and increases emphasis on performance within the supply chain
- **Greater transparency:** Elaborates on transparent communication, supporting alignment with reporting frameworks

ISO 14001:2026 is also made easier to read, and the structure is more harmonized with other ISO management system standards for your convenience. Organizations already familiar with the 2015 version will find the transition smooth and straightforward.

ISO 14001:2026 incorporates easy-to-understand updates that increase its relevance and usability in this fast-changing world, all while maintaining the same holistic focus on environmental impacts and outcomes.

Strategic benefits for your business

Embracing the new ISO 14001 offers tangible advantages for decision-makers:

- **Enhanced performance and cost savings:** Improve environmental outcomes and increase resource efficiency
- **Improved trust and reputation:** Build stronger relationships with customers, investors, and local communities
- **Proactive risk mitigation and compliance:** Stay ahead of regulatory changes and minimize liabilities
- **Innovation and market access:** Unlock new opportunities and strengthen your competitive edge

Next steps

Prepare for the transition by reviewing your current EMS, identifying any gaps, and engaging your leadership and team members.

For more information, visit [iso.org/14001](https://www.iso.org/14001) and sign up for updates, or contact your national standards body.