

The ultimate guide for your

# **ISO 14001** certification



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# ISO 14001: about the standard

Sustainable environmental management is becoming increasingly important. More and more companies are competing for ever-scarcer natural resources. At the same time, consumers have become increasingly environmentally conscious in recent years, and regulatory pressure has intensified. Terms such as 'sustainability' have evolved into decisive criteria for quality and credibility for customers, partners, and consumers alike. Meanwhile, legislation for environmental protection, nature conservation, and the efficient use of natural resources is continually being tightened. An environmental management system certified to an internationally recognized standard such as ISO 14001 provides an optimal foundation for ensuring compliance with laws and regulations and customer satisfaction, enabling you to conserve natural resources, continuously streamline processes, and meet legal and economic requirements.

## What is ISO 14001?

ISO 14001 is a standard set by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) valid since 1996. It helps companies and organizations align their environmental management with global standards. The aim is to improve environmental protection and integrate it optimally into the economic and social environment. After a comprehensive revision, the current version of this standard was published in 2015.

## Who can be certified according to ISO 14001?

The international standard ISO 14001 does not impose absolute requirements on an environmental management system and is therefore flexible. In principle, every company and organization can be certified regardless of size, location, industry, or ecological or social environment. Many companies and organizations worldwide have already seized this opportunity.

## The advantages of ISO 14001

ISO 14001 certification offers you numerous advantages:

- You organize your environmental protection activities more easily.
- You use resources more efficiently.
- You save costs.
- You have a reliable plan for quickly implementing measures that protect the environment.
- You gain more trust from customers, government agencies, and consumers.

## What is an environmental management system?

An environmental management system, also known as an environmental care system, is a method by which organizations develop environmental policies. In addition to policy development, the environmental management system also includes monitoring implementation. The goal of an environmental care system is to help the organization comply with all environmental requirements, including regulations such as the Activities Decree, the Surface Water Protection Act, and the Environmental Management Act.



## The requirements of ISO 14001

To certify your organization against ISO 14001, you must first incorporate efficient environmental management into your business processes. This requires, among other things:

- A written environmental policy that all employees must be aware of.
- Mapping and critically evaluating your processes based on specific environmental criteria.
- An environmental program that defines sustainability objectives and indicates how they can be achieved.
- An effective written environmental management system.
- A documented procedure for an internal audit/inspection based on environmental criteria.

## Contribute to sustainability with your organization through ISO 14001

ISO 14001 aims to permanently link environmental protection with economic interests. By promoting an internal environmental policy and actively involving employees, environmental awareness within your organization will increase. Management will take on more responsibility in environmental management. Ongoing activities will be refined based on this internal environmental policy.

The success of the implemented measures can be continuously monitored through concrete results. This allows for the continuous optimization of all processes within your various business locations with sustainability in mind. Necessary adjustments can include the compatibility of processes, the use of environmental products and services, internal communication, data processing, and mobility within your organization.

## More environmental standards & compatibility

ISO 14001 is part of the ISO 14000 series, a collection of voluntary standards for environmental management in organizations. Each standard within the ISO 14000 series outlines requirements for a specific area of environmental management. These standards are designed to help organizations develop environmental management systems and assess their effectiveness.

The certification of your environmental management system is compatible with other management system standards, such as the quality management standard, ISO 9001. This means you can easily integrate ISO 14001 into your existing management system at any time, allowing for the possibility of combined certification for different standards.



# Certification in 6 steps

Are you looking to maximize the effectiveness of your environmental management measures? DEKRA is here to help by conducting a comprehensive ISO 14001 audit of your environmental management system (EMS). Our experienced auditors evaluate the processes and measures unique to your organization, ensuring you receive a customized ISO 14001 certification. Alongside our personalized approach, we follow a standardized procedure, guiding you through a 6-step certification process.

## Our approach: People Based Auditing

What sets DEKRA apart? Our audit process uniquely prioritizes the human factor. With our extensive experience, we understand that it's the people within your organization who play a vital role in implementing processes, systems, and methods.

We call our approach **People Based Auditing**. This method has been highly valued by our certificate holders for many years and is now a standard part of every DEKRA audit. Aspects like behavior and employee awareness serve as critical starting points in the ISO 14001 certification process.

By taking this approach, we go beyond the standard norm to ensure your organizational culture truly aligns with your desired processes.

Behavior is the key determinant of success. With People Based Auditing, you gain valuable insights into this critical factor. This approach invigorates your environmental management system, making it more effective and engaging for your organization and employees.

### People Based Auditing in practice

During an ISO 14001 certification with our unique People Based Auditing method, you and your organization will benefit from:

- ▶ auditors who take the time needed to deeply understand your organization, specific wishes, and needs;
- ▶ a fixed point of contact throughout the entire process;
- ▶ comprehensive preparation for the certification process;
- ▶ enhanced awareness of service quality.



# ISO 27001 certification in 6 steps

## 1 Pre-check (optional)



If you wish, we can arrange an introductory meeting with our experts in advance. During this meeting, we will provide you with more information about the audit and the standards. This way, you can prepare thoroughly for the audit.

## 3 Certification audit



Our auditors inspect your environmental management system on-site. During our audits, we always consider the human factor, which we refer to as People-Based Auditing.

## 5 Regular monitoring audits



DEKRA will return annually to conduct further checks. This ensures that your organization continues to implement the regulations correctly in practice.

## 2 Documentation review



You prepare for the certification. This includes reviewing your current documents. Do they still reflect reality? If necessary, adjust the documents.

## 4 ISO 14001 certification



After successful certification, you will receive our DEKRA Seal and the ISO 14001 certificate. This demonstrates that you meet the requirements. The certificate is valid for three years.

## 6 Recertification



After the certification period expires, you can get re-certified. With the extension of the certificate, you will be certified for another three years.



# ISO 14001 checklist

With our checklist, you can quickly and easily find out whether your business is properly prepared for certification according to ISO 14001:2015. The following questions are arranged according to the basic structure for management system standards.

If you can answer a question with yes, mark it with a check so you can see instantly which areas of your company already comply with the requirements, and which areas require more attention.

## ▶ Context of the organization

- You have identified external and internal factors that may affect your ability to achieve the desired results of the environmental management system.
- You monitor external and internal environmental conditions that may affect your business and on which your business may have an influence.
- You have identified all parties relevant to the EMS as well as their claims.
- You have defined the limits and validity of your EMS in order to define and document its scope.
- You have defined the operational elements, functions, and physical boundaries of your EMS.
- You have documented your company's ability and authority to control and influence internal and external factors.
- You ensure that your EMS is continuously maintained and improved.
- You have considered all factors relevant to the implementation and operation of your EMS.
- You have integrated and documented EMS requirements in your operational processes.

## Management

- You have defined top management, which bears responsibility for the effectiveness of the EMS.
- Top management communicates the importance of effective environmental management.
- Top management has defined and documented environmental policies and objectives to ensure that they are consistent with the strategic direction of the organization.
- Top management ensures that your EMS achieves the desired results.
- Top management has provided all the necessary resources for the EMS.
- You have informed your employees about their responsibilities within the EMS.

## Planning

- You have identified and documented potential risks and opportunities.
- You have established criteria to determine which of the identified aspects have or may have a significant impact on the environment.
- You have documentation of the processes relevant to your EMS.
- You have defined, documented, and monitored relevant environmental objectives for your company.
- You have taken a life cycle perspective into account when determining environmental aspects.
- You have planned measures to implement your environmental goals (e.g. activities, resources, personnel, schedule).
- You have documentation on the identified environmental aspects and impacts.
- You have documented information about your compliance obligations.

## Support

- You have the resources you need to effectively run your EMS.
- You have defined a procedure for internal and external communication regarding the EMS.
- You have ensured that your employees have the necessary skills.
- You have determined the scope of the information to be documented for EMS control.
- You have an overview of relevant employees within the scope of the EMS and have documented all evidence of their competencies.

## Operation

- You have implemented controls that ensure the correct execution of internal and external EMS processes.
- You have communicated relevant environmental requirements to external suppliers and contractors.
- You have proof of the correct execution of the EMS processes.
- You have established, implemented and documented necessary processes related to the preparation for and reaction to possible emergency situations.
- You ensure that the life cycle perspective is taken into account in the development, design and procurement of products/services.

## Learn more about ISO 14001

Schedule a consultation online, request a personalized quote, or visit our website to explore more about ISO 14001 certification.

[request ISO 14001 quote >](#)

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# About DEKRA Audit

**Active. Diligent. Visionary.** Whether you need more efficient business processes, more reliable products and systems for international market success or qualified auditors, DEKRA Audit has over a thousand specialists worldwide ready to provide you with comprehensive services.

Our services cover all aspects of quality and performance, safety and health, sustainability, and responsible business practices. Approximately 30,000 companies in over 50 countries rely on our certifications, tests, and inspections to achieve their objectives efficiently and seamlessly.



To learn more about us, go to [dekra.nl](https://www.dekra.nl)

[All audits and quality labels >](#)

[Our method >](#)

[All DEKRA services >](#)

## DEKRA Audit certifications and quality labels

We offer our clients certification services to the following standards (among others):

BORG	HKZ certificate	MedMij label
BRL 100	ISCC Corsia	NEN-EN 15224
BRL 6000	ISCC EU	NEN 7510
BRL 6000-25	ISCC Plus	NEN 8009
BRL 9500	ISAE 3000	NTA8080
CO2 Performance Ladder	ISAE 3402	NVKL
CO2 Reduction management	ISO 14001	Security Quality Mark
CSR Performance Ladder	ISO 2000-1	Social Enterprise Performance Ladder
Double-counting verification	ISO 45001	SCIOS
Entry verification	ISO 55001	Safety Culture Ladder
Evacuation Alert System Certification	ISO 9001	VCA company certificate
Fire Alarm Installations Regulations		