

The background of the page is a photograph of two people, a man and a woman, sitting at a table in what appears to be a meeting or office setting. They are both looking towards each other, suggesting a conversation. The man is on the left, and the woman is on the right. They are both wearing dark-colored shirts. The background is slightly blurred, showing a window with greenery outside.

## ISO 14001:2026 Revision

Answers to key questions  
about the ISO 14001 revision



**ISO 14001:2026  
Revision  
Frequently  
Asked  
Questions**

Organizations with ISO 14001 certification are currently preparing for the upcoming revision of the standard. While the structure remains familiar, the revised requirements introduce clearer expectations for climate-related considerations, environmental performance, lifecycle thinking, and change management. Many organizations are therefore assessing how these updates affect their existing systems. The following FAQs provide concise guidance on key changes, implications, and practical next steps for a structured transition.

**Q1: What is changing in ISO 14001:2026?**

The ISO 14001:2026 revision is expected to clarify existing requirements and strengthen key areas such as climate-related considerations, environmental performance, life cycle thinking, and structured change management. The update is considered an evolutionary development rather than a fundamental redesign of the standard.

**Q2: When will ISO 14001:2026 be published and what is the expected transition timeline?**

The final version of ISO 14001:2026 was published in mid-April 2026, following the release of the Final Draft International Standard (FDIS) in January 2026. Organizations certified to ISO 14001:2015 now have a transition period of three years to update their environmental management systems and transition their certification.

**Q3: Which documented information in the environmental management system is most likely to require updates?**

Organizations should review documented information related to context analysis, environmental aspects, risks and opportunities, and operational controls. In particular, documentation supporting climate-related considerations, lifecycle perspectives, and change management processes may require more structured and consistent evidence.

**Q4: What are the main areas organizations need to focus on?**

Key focus areas are expected to include climate change and environmental conditions in the context analysis, measurable environmental performance, enhanced life cycle and supply chain considerations, structured change management, and a more systematic approach to risks and opportunities.



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**Q5: Will organizations need to redesign their environmental management system?**

In most cases, a full redesign is not required. Organizations with established systems can typically build on their existing structure by reviewing and updating selected processes, documentation, and management practices.

**Q6: What are the potential audit risks if organizations do not adequately address the revised requirements?**

Failure to address the revised requirements may lead to nonconformities during audits, reduced transparency of environmental performance, and gaps in risk management processes. In addition, organizations may face challenges in demonstrating compliance with stakeholder expectations related to environmental and climate-related topics.

**Q7: Which internal roles are particularly affected by the ISO 14001:2026 revision?**

Environmental managers, sustainability leads, and internal auditors will be particularly involved in interpreting and implementing the revised requirements. In addition, top management is expected to play a more active role in integrating environmental considerations into decision-making and ensuring the effectiveness of the environmental management system.

**Q8: What type of training may be required to support the transition to ISO 14001:2026?**

Organizations should ensure that relevant personnel understand the updated requirements and their implications for daily operations. This may include targeted training for environmental managers, internal auditors, and process owners, particularly in areas such as climate-related aspects, lifecycle thinking, and environmental performance evaluation.



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**Q9: How can ISO 14001:2026 be efficiently integrated into existing management systems such as ISO 9001?**

The revised ISO 14001 will follow the ISO Harmonized Structure, which facilitates integration with other management system standards such as ISO 9001. Organizations can use this alignment to update shared processes such as risk management, internal audits, and management reviews in a coordinated manner.

**Q10: How will the revision affect ISO 14001 audits?**

Audits under ISO 14001:2026 are expected to place greater emphasis on demonstrating effective environmental performance, structured risk management, and the integration of climate and lifecycle aspects. There will also be a stronger focus on how organizations interpret and implement the revised requirements in practice and how these are evidenced during audits.

**Q11: How can DEKRA support the transition to ISO 14001:2026?**

DEKRA supports organizations with independent gap analyses, and structured transition audits. This enables a transparent and reliable transition process and provides confidence in achieving ISO 14001:2026 certification.

A photograph showing two men in a meeting. One man is in the foreground, partially visible, looking towards the other man. The second man is in the background, looking at a laptop screen. They are in an office setting with greenery visible in the background.

# DEKRA Management Systems Certification

Supporting your efforts to ensure compliant, effective and high-performing management systems, our certification services help you to demonstrate conformity with internationally recognized standards and requirements. Our auditors draw on many years of experience and apply structured audit methodologies to provide independent and objective evaluations of your management systems. This enables you to ensure consistent interpretation of requirements, transparent audit results and continuous improvement of your processes.

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