



FAQ: Certification to ISO 14001

Frequently Asked Questions

Would you like to have the sustainability of your environmental management system certified according to ISO 14001 but have some questions first? No problem - we have compiled the most frequently-asked questions and their answers for you.

1. What is ISO 14001

ISO 14001 is a standard developed by the International Organization for Standardization since 1996. It helps companies and organizations align their environmental management systems 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.

2. Why is systematic environmental management important?

The demand for resources is growing worldwide. More and more companies are competing for increasingly scarce natural raw materials. At the same time, public environmental awareness and legislative pressure have increased in recent years. Terms such as “sustainability” have long since become decisive criteria for quality and credibility for customers, partners and the public. On the other hand, laws on environmental protection, resource conservation and efficiency are becoming stricter and stricter. An environmental management system that has been tested and certified according to an internationally recognized standard such as ISO 14001 provides an optimal basis for compliance and customer satisfaction. It saves resources, streamlines processes on an ongoing basis and satisfies legal and economic requirements.

3. Who can be certified to ISO 14001?

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

4. What are the requirements for an environmental management system to be certified to ISO 14001?

In order for your company to be certified to ISO 14001, you must first integrate efficient environmental management into your business processes. This includes, among other things:

- A separate environmental policy (written down and known to all employees)
- A critical review and inventory of your processes with regard to environmental criteria
- Defined environmental goals and the path to implementation in an environmental program
- An effective written environmental management system
- A documented procedure for an internal audit/inspection according to environmental criteria

5. What are the benefits of ISO 14001 certification?

By certifying your environmental management system according to the international standard, there is a large range of possible advantages, including:

- Greater efficiency through savings in resources
- Identification of sources of error in your processes and potential areas for improvement
- More efficient processes and higher qualification of employees in environmental issues
- More trust from customers, authorities, partners, and the public
- More sustainable processes, products, and services
- Minimization of waste and pollutants
- Increased legal certainty, recognition and reduction of liability risks
- Timely implementation of future environmental targets



6. How exactly does ISO 14001 certification work?

Our experts provide comprehensive support in auditing your environmental management system. These are the individual steps of the process:

- 1. Information and pre-audit (optional):** Connect with our experts to learn more about what to expect during the audit. We also offer an optional “pre-audit” from one of our auditors to assess your readiness to move forward with the certification audit.
- 2. Stage I audit:** In the first part of your certification audit, the documentation of your management system is audited for completeness and compliance to the standard.
- 3. Stage II audit:** In the second part of your certification audit, our auditors audit your environmental management system to assess the implementation of your management system.
- 4. Granting of certificate:** Upon resolving any non-conformities found in the audit, you will be issued an accredited certificate. The globally-recognized DEKRA Seal will also be made available to you to use to promote your certified status.
- 5. Regular surveillance audits:** Routine audits are performed (usually annually) to observe the maintenance of the implemented management system.
- 6. Recertification:** After three years, you will need to go through a recertification audit (similar to a Stage II audit) to renew your certification.

7. How does ISO 14001 ensure sustainability?

This international standard is intended to combine environmental protection and economic interests. By promoting an internal environmental policy and actively engaging your employees on this topic, environmental awareness is created within the company. At the same time, management assumes more responsibility for the environmental management system and its successful implementation in day-to-day operations. The success of the measures introduced can be continuously monitored on the basis of key indicators. This way, the processes on your premises are sustainably optimized and constantly enhanced. This can range from the environmental impact of processes, products, and services, to communication, data processing, and mobility within the company.

8. Is ISO 14001 compatible with other standards?

Yes, the certification of your environmental management system is compatible with other management system standards, such as the Quality Management Standard ISO 9001. This means that ISO 14001 can easily be integrated into your existing management system. This also opens up the possibility of integrated certification, where multiple standards are audited at once, which could save you time and money.

Are you interested in certification to ISO 14001 or do you have any further questions?
Then contact our experts now!



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