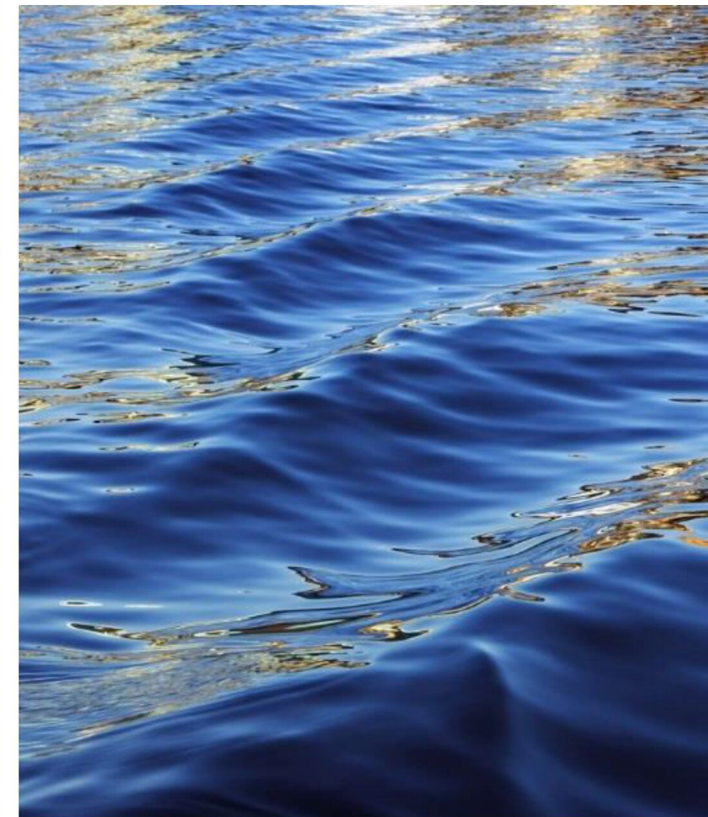


ISO 14001:2026

Changes



Overview

- ISO 14001:2026 was published on 15 Apr 2026.
- Transition Deadline: Certificates to ISO 14001:2015 must be transited to ISO 14001:2026 by April 2029.
- New certification audit must be based on ISO 14001:2026 from Oct 2027.
- Key Changes: The 2026 revision enhances requirements regarding climate change resilience, biodiversity, natural resource use, and supply chain management.

Changes

Refinement on “documented information” across few relevant clauses

- The phrase “shall be available as documented information” replaces “maintain documented information” which previously referred to documentation other than records.
- “documented information shall be available as evidence of” replaces “retain documented information as evidence of” which previously referred to records.
- There is no requirement to replace the terms used by an organization with the terms used in this document. Organizations can choose to use terms that suit their business (e.g. “records”, “documentation”, “procedures”) rather than “documented information”.

Replaced “this International Standard” with “this document” across few relevant clauses

- 4.4, 5.3, 7.5.1, 7.5.3 and 9.2.1.

Changes

Replaced the word “fulfil” its compliance obligations with “meet” its compliance obligations.

- “The phrase “meet compliance obligations” replaces the phrase “fulfil compliance obligations” used in the previous edition of this document in order to adhere to ISO requirements for management system standards. The intent of this new phrase does not differ from that of the previous edition.”

Changes

4.1 Understanding the organization and its context

- Elaborated that issues include **environmental conditions** being affected by the organization or capable of affecting the organization, such as pollution levels, availability of natural resources, climate change, biodiversity or ecosystem health.

4.2 Understanding the needs and expectations of interested parties

- Added a note on relevant interested parties can have needs and expectations related to environmental conditions, such as pollution levels, availability of natural resources, climate change, biodiversity or ecosystem health.
- Added a note on the relevant needs and expectations of interested parties, other than legal requirements, become a compliance obligation when the organization decides to comply with them.

Changes

4.3 Determining the scope of the environmental management system

- Added requirement on exercising control and influence “over the life cycle of its activities, products and services” when determining the scope.

Changes

5.1 Leadership and commitments

- Rephrased from “supporting other relevant **management** roles to demonstrate their leadership as it applies to their areas of responsibility” to “supporting other relevant roles to demonstrate their leadership as it applies to their areas of responsibility.”

Note: A5.1 - “Top management supports other roles to demonstrate their leadership by promoting a culture that engages persons working for the organization, or on its behalf, in activities that contribute to the intended outcomes of the environmental management system”

5.2 Environmental policy

- Replaced the word “fulfil” its compliance obligations with “meet” its compliance obligations.

Changes

6.1.2 Environmental aspects

- Added “organization shall determine potential emergency situations (see 8.2), including those that can have an environmental impact.”. Previously, this requirement was under 6.1.1 of 2015 version.
- Added take into account “normal” conditions.
- Take into account “potential emergency situations” instead of “reasonably foreseeable emergency situations” when determining environmental aspect.
- Added NOTE 1 A **life cycle perspective** includes consideration of the environmental aspects and impacts at each life cycle stage. The life cycle stages include acquisition of raw materials, design, production, transportation/delivery, use, end-of-life treatment and final disposal.

6.1.4 Risks and opportunities

- New sub-clause dedicated for risk and opportunities requirement.
- Previously this requirement was under 6.1.1.
- Although there is no change on the requirement related to risks and opportunities, **with the changes on clause 4.1, 4.2 & 4.3, the determined risks and opportunities will be affected.**

Note: Clause 6.1.4 of ISO 14001:2015 version was re-sequenced to clause 6.1.5.

Changes

6.1.5 Planning action

- Formerly 6.1.4 of ISO 14001:2015 version.
- Rephrased “significant environmental aspects” to “significant environmental aspects determined in 6.1.2”
- Rephrased “compliance obligations” to “compliance obligation determined in 6.1.3”
- Rephrased “risks and opportunities” to “risks and opportunities determined in 6.1.4”.
- Rephrased “integrate and implement the actions into its environmental management system processes (see 6.2, Clause 7, Clause 8 and 9.1), or other business processes” to “implement the actions into its environmental management system processes (see 6.2, Clause 7, Clause 8 and 9.1) or integrate the actions into other business processes”.
- No significant change on the intention.

6.2.1 Environmental objectives

- Rephrased “taking into account the organization’s significant environmental aspects and associated compliance obligations” to “taking into account the organization’s significant environmental aspects and **related** compliance obligations”.
- Revised to environmental objectives shall be “available as documented information” from “maintain documented information on the environmental objectives”

Changes

6.3 Planning of changes

- New sub-clause.
- As part of managing change, the organization evaluates changes that are anticipated and plans for the expected effects and environmental impacts of such changes.
- *Note: This is a proactive approach as compared to clause 8.1 which stipulate "The organization shall control planned changes" in both 2015 and 2026 versions.*

8.1 Operational planning and control

- Rephrased "The organization shall ensure that outsourced processes are controlled or influenced." to "The organization shall ensure that **externally provided process(es), products or services** that are relevant to the intended outcomes of the environmental management system are controlled or influenced".
- Rephrased "The organization shall maintain documented information to the extent necessary to have confidence that the processes have been carried out as planned." to "The process(es) for 8.1 shall be **available as documented information** to the extent necessary to have confidence that they are carried out as planned."
- The term "externally provided processes, products, and services" is now used to clarify that any external influence on the EMS must be controlled, not just outsourced processes.

Changes

9.1.1 General

- Removed “The organization shall monitor, measure, analyse and evaluate its environmental performance.”
- Rephrased “what needs to be monitored and measured” to “what needs to be **monitored, measured and analysed**”.
- Rephrased “The organization shall retain appropriate documented information as evidence of the monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation results.” to “**Appropriate documented information shall be available as evidence** of the monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation results.”

Changes

9.2.2 Internal audit programme

- Rephrased “When establishing the internal audit programme, the organization shall take into consideration” to “When establishing the internal audit programme, the organization **shall consider**”.
- Added “define the audit objective(s)”.
- Revised “The organization shall retain documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit programme and the audit results” to “The following **documented information shall be available**:
 - a. the audit programme(s);
 - b. evidence of the implementation of the audit programme(s);
 - c. evidence of the audit results.”

9.3 Management review

- Elaborated clause 9.3 with clause 9.3.1, 9.3.2 & 9.3.3.
- Clause 9.3 becomes the title only with following sub-clauses:
 - a. 9.3.1 General
 - b. 9.3.2 Management review inputs
 - c. 9.3.3 Management review results
- Rephrased “The management review inputs shall include consideration of” to “The management review inputs **shall include**”
- Rephrased “the needs and expectations of interested parties” to “the needs and expectations of interested parties **that are relevant to the environmental management system,**”
- Rephrased “fulfilment of its compliance obligations” to “**meeting** its compliance obligations”.

Changes

10.1 Continual improvement

- Combined clause 10.1 General and clause 10.3 Continual improvement of ISO 14001:2015 standard into this clause 10.1 of ISO 14001:2026 standard.
- Title changed to "Continual improvement"
- **Added** to include clause 10.2 (Nonconformity and corrective action) when determining opportunities for improvement.

10.2 Nonconformity and corrective action

- Rephrased "The organization shall retain documented information as evidence" to "**Documented information shall be available** as evidence of".

Transition

Document review

- Understand existing documented information that are supporting the implementation of EMS.
- Review and revise relevant documented information.
- Ensure history of changes are documented.
- Approve revised documented information.

Communication / Briefing / Training

- Formally communicate the revised documented information to staff internally.
- Where applicable, communicate to interested parties.
- Documented information shall be available as evidence of communication / briefing / training..

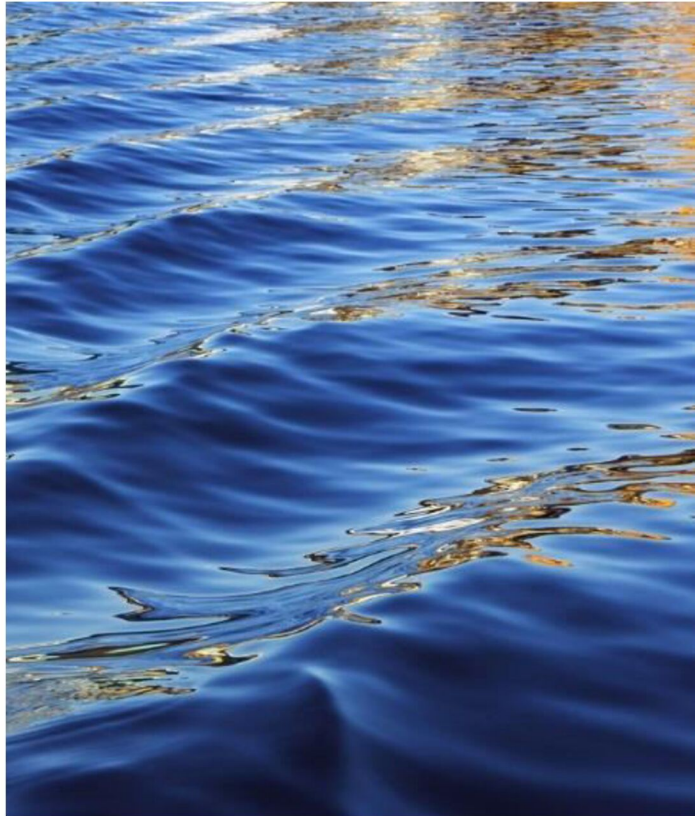
Implementation & Review

- Implement the revised process / practices where applicable.
- Monitor the implementation due date where applicable.
- Documented information shall be available as evidence of implementation.
- Review the effectiveness of implementation through audit process.

Summary

- Transition Deadline:
Certificates to ISO 14001:2015 must be transitioned to ISO 14001:2026 by April 2029.
- Start early on the transition.
- Inform Certification Body when ready to be audited against ISO 14001:2026 version.





Thank You

QuESH | contact@quesh.com.sg | www.QuESH.com.sg