

ISO 14001 EMS THIRD PARTY CERTIFICATION SCHEME

WHAT IS ISO 14001?

Environmental Management System

A environmental management system is a management system that focuses on driving and improving environmental performance through identifying, prioritizing and managing its environmental risk in its business operation. ISO 14001 requires organization to identify environmental requirements, establish policy, objectives and targets, determine significant environmental aspects, plan and control its operation, implement corrective actions and conduct management review. In essence, it consists of the following clauses,

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|------------|------------------------------|
| Clause 4.1 | General requirements |
| Clause 4.2 | Environmental policy |
| Clause 4.3 | Planning |
| Clause 4.4 | Implementation and operation |
| Clause 4.5 | Checking |
| Clause 4.6 | Management review |

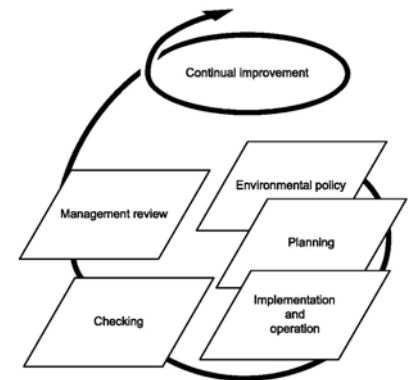
Compatibility

Based on the Deming PDCA (Plan-do-check-it) cycle, ISO 14001 has the same basic structure as other international management system standards such as ISO 9001 or OHSAS 18001. It offers a common framework for integrating different management systems.

WHY IS IT RELEVANT?

ISO 14001 is a requirement standard which means organizations can be certified to it. It is generic in nature and is applicable to organizations of various sizes and background.

129,199 ISO 14001 certificates have been awarded in 140 countries by end 2006.



ISO 14001 EMS Model

Benefits

Apart from enhancement in creditability through third party certification, an effective ISO 14001 management system shall deliver the following inherent benefits,

- Sustained and improved environmental performance
- Platform for process and management control and improvement
- Reduction in waste and cost (eg energy consumption and insurance premiums)
- Facilitates legal compliance



HOW SHOULD WE PROCEED?

In order to capitalize the full offer of ISO 14001, organizations shall acquire an accurate understanding of the requirements and the intent of the standard. Perform a gap analysis to determine the status of the organization compared to the certification requirements. From top management to front line staff, all levels of staff shall acquire an appropriate level of understanding of the standard. Top management commitment is a critical success factor. Work on a realistic plan and not the least, ensure a strong buy-in from everybody.

i-VAC Certification offers a full range of improvement based ISO 14001 training courses and certification services to address your needs. Contact us at care@i-vac.com.