



Attention Top Management

Please be advised that ISO 14001 has been revised, and the new ISO 14001:2015 was officially published on September 15, 2015. All organizations currently registered to ISO 14001:2004 will be required to upgrade their by September 14, 2018, as the 2004 version will become obsolete on that date.

As a leader of your organization, the new standard will require your involvement to further enhance the policies of your organization, and provide a framework and guidance to those personnel assigned to manage your Environmental Management System.

ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems registration provides a set of uniform requirements for an environmental management system. A number of environmental management principles including environmental outcome performance focus, support of top management, sustainable development, integration of environmental management into all business processes and continual improvement form the basis for the standard.

Changes to the Standard

The newly revised ISO 14001:2015 responds to the latest market developments, and is more compatible with other management systems, such as ISO 9001, thanks to an updated, higher-level structure. The new standard is less prescriptive than the previous version; instead focusing on performance through a combination of risk-based thinking and a process approach, as well as employment of the “Plan-Do-Check-Act” cycle at all levels in the organization.

Other updates include:

- Increased importance has been given to risk
- More emphasis has been placed on leadership and Top Management direction
- Greater significance of communication and awareness

These updates, along with changes to other management system standard, include implementing similar terminology across all standards and matching sub-clauses to the top-level structure, ensuring fully integrated systems. The ISO 14001:2015 standard can be purchased through the [NSF Bookstore](#).

ISO 14001:2015 Transition

NSF-ISR will be working with each of you (our clients) to provide a smooth transition over the next three years to the new International Standard for Environmental Management. We are committed to ensuring that your organization understands the updated requirements and what steps your organization may need to take to achieve conformance. We have a number of resources available to help you through the transition:

- [NSF-ISR ISO 14001 Webpage](#) - keep up on the latest information regarding the standard and the transition process
- [ISO 14001:2015 Transition Webinars](#)
- [NSF-ISR Guide to the ISO 14001:2015 Transition](#)

ISO 14001:2004 certificates will not be valid after the 3-year transition period. Organizations looking for first-time ISO 9001 certification are encouraged to certify to ISO 14001:2015. Existing ISO 14001:2004 clients are encouraged to transition early to avoid a bottleneck at the end of the 3-year transition period, or any unforeseen challenges with maintaining certification.