



NSF-ISR

# RC14001<sup>®</sup>:2015 Guidebook



# RC14001® Overview

RC14001® Environmental Management Systems is an integrated, singular, environmental, health, safety & security management system. It enables an organization to identify and control the environmental impact of its activities, products or services, improve its environmental performance continually. It provides a systematic approach to setting environmental objectives and targets to achieve these goals and to demonstrate that they have been met.

The Responsible Care Management System offers an integrated, structured approach to improve company performance in the following key areas:

- Community awareness
- Emergency response
- Security
- Distribution
- Employee health and safety
- Pollution prevention
- Process and product safety

Certification to Responsible Care Management Systems must be renewed every three years, and companies can choose one of two certification options:

1. RCMS® certification, which verifies that a company has implemented the Responsible Care Management System.
2. RC14001®, which combines Responsible Care and ISO 14001 certification into a single, cost-effective process. Combines American Chemistry Councils "Process Safety Code", "Product Safety Code" and "Security Code."

The Responsible Care Management System's framework is simple, building on a basic **"Plan-Do-Check-Act"** philosophy that is at the core of other management systems standards and raises the bar for industry-wide performance while allowing flexibility for individual companies and facilities to meet their specific needs. RC14001 combines components of the Responsible Care system with ISO 14001, enabling a certification that allows organizations to demonstrate conformance to both ISO 14001 and Responsible Care Management Systems.

## Guiding Principles

Ethical Leadership	Safe Products	Safe Use Of Chemicals	Safe Facilities
Continual Reduction Of Safety Risks	Open Communications Of Incidents & Accidents	Cooperate in Development of Effective Regulations & Standards	Support Education & Research
Communicate With Stakeholders	Minimize Waste & Pollution	Continually Improve	Encourage Use Of These Principles



# Benefits

Certifying to RC14001® or RCMS® allows your organization to:

- Gain credit for existing Responsible Care activities that go beyond the scope of an environmental management system such as occupational health and safety, product stewardship, security, community outreach and transportation safety activities
- Manage chemicals responsibly
- Increase access to new customers and business partners
- Meet American Chemistry Council (ACC) requirements for member companies
- Attain efficiencies and cost savings from an integrated management system

## Key Improvements to RC14001:2015

RC14001®:2015 was published on September 30, 2015 and is available for purchase from the [American Chemistry Council](#), and NSF has ISO 14001:2015 [available for purchase](#). Responsible Care, RC14001®:2015, integrates environmental, safety and security into one comprehensive management system. RC14001®:2015 combines and updates the American Chemistry Council's historical health, safety, security with the recently published requirements of ISO 14001:2015 into the updated RC14001®:2015.

<h3>Environmental</h3> <p>ISO 14001:2015 is the environmental pillar of sustainability and serves as the foundational standard supporting the environmental component of RC14001:2015</p>	<h3>Occupational Health &amp; Safety</h3> <p>RC14001 incorporates principles and practices from a number of internationally recognized management systems and best practices including occupational &amp; health standards such as:</p>	<h3>Process/Product Safety</h3> <p>RC14001 offers an approach to improve company performance in key areas of community awareness, emergency response, distribution and pollution prevention through:</p>	<h3>Security</h3> <p>RC Security Code is a free-standing set of requirements for ACC members and Responsible Care Partners that have been incorporated into both RCMS and RC14001, they include:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A greater commitment from leadership</li> <li>- An increased alignment with strategic direction</li> <li>- Greater protection for the environment, with a focus on proactive initiatives</li> <li>- More effective internal and external communication, driven through a communications strategy</li> <li>- Life-cycle thinking, considering each stage of a product or service, from development to end of life</li> <li>- Emphasis on environmental</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BS OHSAS 18001, an internationally recognized occupational, health and safety model</li> <li>- ANSI-AIHZ Z10, a US consensus developed standard on Occupational Health and Safety</li> <li>- OSHA VPP, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Voluntary Protection Program (Star) management system elements.</li> <li>- ISO 26000 (Social Responsibility) provide a recommended framework</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NFPA 1600: National Fire Prevention Association's "American National Standard on Disaster/ Emergency Management Business Continuity Programs" - developed after 9/11 and endorsed by US Congress &amp; Dept. of Homeland Security</li> <li>- RC Mutual Assistance Concepts</li> <li>- Global Product Strategy – plain language safety summaries of chemical products to strengthen product stewardship and inform international efforts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Leadership Commitment</li> <li>- Analysis of threats, vulnerabilities &amp; consequences</li> <li>- Information &amp; cyber-security</li> <li>- Documentation of security management program</li> <li>- Training, drills, &amp; Guidance</li> <li>- Communications, dialogue, &amp; information exchange</li> <li>- Response to Security Threats</li> <li>- Response to Security Incidents</li> <li>- Audits</li> </ul>

Environmental	Occupational Health & Safety	Process/Product Safety	Security
<p>performance and measurement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Additional Responsible Care requirements are “boxed” or “highlighted” as adopted by the American Chemistry Council (ACC).</li> </ul>	<p>for organizations on the underlying principles of social responsibility – including social, economic and environmental responsibilities.</p>	<p>to promote safety production , use &amp; disposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “Community Awareness &amp; Emergency Response Code of Management Practices” (CAER): to assure emergency preparedness &amp; to foster community ‘right-to-know’</li> <li>- Take into account: raw materials, product, waste material &amp; transportation incidents</li> <li>- Systems to manage change for products, processes, &amp; activities associated with operations &amp; commensurate risk</li> <li>- Systems to facilitate flow of hazard &amp; safe handling information along the value chain to support risk evaluation &amp; management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Third-party verification</li> <li>- Management of Change</li> <li>- Continuous Improvement</li> </ul>

## RC14001®:2015 & ISO 14001:2015 Transition

All organizations certified to RC14001®:2015 must also be certified to ISO 14001:2015. NSF-ISR will be working with each of you to ensure a smooth and coordinated transition to both RC14001®:2015 and ISO 14001:2015 over the transition time-period (September 2015 to September 2018).

Neither RC14001:2013 or the 14001:2004 certificates will be valid after the 3-year transition period. Organizations looking for first-time RC 14001 certification are encouraged to certify to both RC14001®:2015 and ISO 14001:2015. Existing RC14001:2013 users encouraged to transition early to avoid a bottleneck at the end of the 3-year transition period, or any unforeseen challenges with maintaining certification

## How NSF-ISR Can Help You with the Transition

NSF-ISR is a leader in management systems registration and can provide the latest information to clients on updates to the standard. We work with clients to ensure they fully understand the requirements and timing of the standard changes. In order to help organizations transition to RC14001:2015 and ISO 14001:2015, NSF-ISR has developed a number of resources to simplify the process:

- The online **Readiness Assessment Tool** helps organizations determine their readiness for transitioning to RC14001 and ISO 14001:2015.

- Complementary **On-Demand Webinars** are aimed at making the transition to the revised standard simpler. You can download the entire series of webinars on demand at no cost.
- The **Upgrade Planner and Delta Checklist** captures areas of new requirements, changes and updates from the previous version of the standard. Once completed, you can send it to our expert lead auditor who will do a half-day minimum desk audit.
- We have developed a **Top Management Letter** that can be used to help explain these new requirements to your top management team.



**Onsite  
Informational  
Sessions**



**GAP  
Analysis**



**Training  
Sessions**



**Tailored  
Transition  
Plans**



**Transitional  
Planning**



**Webinars**



**Specialized  
Sessions**



**Upgrade  
Planner**

All of these resources can be found on our website, [www.nsf-isr.org](http://www.nsf-isr.org).

NSF-ISR is committed to ensuring that your organization understands the updated requirements and what steps your organization may need to take to achieve conformance.



# Comparing RC14001:2015 to RC14001:2013

New or Different in RC14001:2015		RC14001:2013	
Key			
RC14001:2015	New Section	Old Section	RC14001:2013
RC 14001 Introduction			
RC Interpretive Notes			
Introduction			
Background	0.1		Purpose
Aim of Environmental Management System	0.2		
Success Factors	0.3		
Plan-Do-Check-Act Model	0.4		
Contents of this International Standard	0.5		
<b>Scope</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Scope</b>
<b>Normative References</b>	<b>2</b>		
<b>Terms &amp; Definitions</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Definitions Appendix 1</b>
Terms Related to Organization & Leadership	3.1		
Terms Related to Planning	3.2		
Terms Related to Support & Operations	3.3		
Terms Related to Performance Evaluation & Improvement	3.4		
<b>Context of the Organization</b>	<b>4</b>		
Understanding the Context of the Organization	4.1		
Understanding the Needs & Expectations of Interested Parties	4.2		
Determining Scope of the Environmental Management Systems	4.3		
Environmental Management System	4.4	4.4.3	Responsibilities
<b>Leadership</b>	<b>5</b>		
Leadership & Commitment	5.1	4.2	
Environmental Policy	5.2		
Organizational Roles, Responsibilities & Authorities	5.3	4	Responsibilities
<b>Planning</b>	<b>6</b>		
Actions to address risk & opportunities	6.1		
General	6.1.1		
Environmental Aspects	6.1.2	4.3.1	
Compliance Obligations	6.1.3		

RC14001:2015	New Section	Old Section	RC14001:2013
Planning Action	6.1.4		
Environmental Objectives & Planning to achieve them	6.2		
Environmental Objectives	6.2.1		
Planning Actions to achieve environmental objectives	6.2.2		
<b>Support</b>	<b>7</b>		
Resources	7.1	4.4.1/5.1	
Competence	7.2		
Awareness	7.3		
Communication	7.4		
General	7.4.1	4.4.3	
Internal Communications	7.4.2		
External Communications	7.4.3	4.4.3	
Documented Information	7.5		
General	7.5.1		
Creating & Updating	7.5.2		
Control of documented information	7.5.3		
<b>Operation</b>	<b>8</b>		
Operational Planning & Control	8.1	4.4.6 4.4.3 4.4.6	
Emergency Preparedness & Response	8.2	4.4.7	
<b>Performance Evaluation</b>	<b>9</b>		
Monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation	9.1		
General	9.1.1	4.4.3 4.5.1	
Evaluation of Compliance	9.1.2		
Internal Audit	9.2		
General	9.2.1		
Internal Audit Planning	9.2.2		
Management Review	9.3		
<b>Improvement</b>	<b>10</b>		
General	10.1		
Nonconformity and corrective action	10.2	4.5.3	
Continual Improvement	10.2		
Annex A Guidance on the use of this International Standard			
Annex B Correspondence between ISO 14001:2015 & ISO 14001:2004			
Annex C Responsible Care Organization & Contact Information			

RC14001:2015	New Section	Old Section	RC14001:2013
Annex D The Nature and Purpose of RC 14001 Technical Specifications			
Bibliography		Appendix 3	References and Resources
Alphabetical Index of Terms			
Document Control Information			Document Control
		Appendix 2	ACC Responsible Care Initiative Requirement

# CONTACT US



**NSF-ISR**

## World Headquarters

NSF International Strategic Registrations USA  
789 N. Dixboro Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48105

**Toll Free:** +1 888 NSF 9000 **T** +1 734 827 6800 **F** +1 734 827 6801  
**E** [information@nsf-isr.org](mailto:information@nsf-isr.org) **W** [www.nsf-isr.org](http://www.nsf-isr.org)