

RECYCLING INDUSTRY OPERATING STANDARD (RIOS™)



The Recycling Industry Operating Standard (RIOS™) is an integrated quality, environmental, health and safety management system certification, allowing recyclers to manage their system more effectively and have stronger health and safety programs, environmental responsibility, and operational efficiency.

Recyclers of all commodities are able to adopt RIOS™ at their facility, in any country in the world. RIOS™ was developed based primarily on the “Plan-Do-Check-Act” requirements of ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001, with simplified language and terminology, leading to a standard that is more easily understood.

BENEFITS

RIOS™ certification makes a facility significantly more marketable to suppliers and consumers, assuring stakeholders that waste will be disposed of in a responsible way. As an integrated standard, RIOS™ impacts many areas of operations, including:

Health and Safety

- > Evaluate all areas for potential hazards and make necessary changes to decrease the likelihood and severity of an incident.
- > Ensure that all employees are adequately and regularly trained through regular monitoring.
- > Give employees the ability to propose new ideas and contribute to the development of a safe workplace.
- > Framework to monitor OSHA regulations and ensure ongoing compliance, reducing the number of visits and fines from regulating authorities and create a safer workplace.

Environment

- > Conduct a thorough review of their environmental impacts, including noise, air, water pollution, energy consumption, as well as positive impacts, such as the generation of recyclables.
- > Framework to monitor ongoing compliance with environmental regulations, protecting a facility from fines or litigation for non-compliance.
- > Market your third-party verified environmental management system and commitment to doing business responsibly and sustainably.

Quality

- > Stakeholders value a verified quality management system. Whether upstream or downstream, your customers and suppliers are looking for consistent, accurate, and high-quality service.
- > Implementing RIOS™ means that a facility has considered how it communicates with stakeholders. Having plans for disseminating information effectively improves relationships with customers and suppliers.



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REGISTRATION PROCESS

Certification to the RIOS™ standard requires accredited certification bodies, such as NSF International, to conduct an initial assessment to verify conformance to the standard. Following this, ongoing conformance will be demonstrated through annual on-site surveillance audits and re-registration every three years.



The RIOS™ Standard is the document that provides the framework and the rules for RIOS™ certification. Each section of the standard outlines specific requirements that a facility must meet in order to pass their audit and become certified. The RIOS™ standard is designed so that each requirement works seamlessly with the others to foster healthy, safe, sustainable recycling, along with consistent and high-quality production of material.

CONTACT US

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