

# ISO 14001:2015

## How your organization will benefit



### Executive Briefing

ISO 14001 – Environmental Management Systems, the world's first international environmental standard, has been helping thousands of organizations to improve their environmental, sustainability and operational performance. It provides a framework to help you identify and control how your activities, products and services affect and impact the environment. It helps put robust procedures in place to conserve your resources and save money. BSI has been at the forefront of ISO 14001 since the start. Originally based on BS 7750 in 1992, BSI has worked with thousands of organizations for over 20 years to embed ISO 14001 into their operations.

## ISO 14001:2015

ISO 14001 has provided many benefits to the business community over the years. Over **91%** of BSI clients that embraced ISO 14001 gained benefits from certification:

- **76%** comply with regulations
- **60%** inspired trust in their business
- **57%** reduce waste and defects\*

Updated in 2015, the standard not only addresses current environmental practices, but also ensures that the management system is future-proof.

The new ISO 14001 provides a great opportunity for your organization to review your environmental management system (EMS) ensuring it's integrated into the strategic priorities of your organization adding real value to your business.

The changes to the standard will bring the following new benefits to your organization:

### Bringing environmental management into the heart of your business

The standard requires a strategic approach to environmental management. It requires organizations to consider the factors affecting environmental performance so that significant risks and opportunities can be identified and aligned with the strategic direction of the organization. This strategic focus will result in optimizing the performance of your EMS making it more sustainable, saving money and helping preserve the world's resources for future generations.

### Improved environmental performance

Organizations will need to take steps to protect the environment and improve environmental performance. Good environmental management will reduce the risk of regulatory fines and can often identify opportunities to save money.

### Leadership

The standard requires significant involvement by your leadership team to make sure it's effective. These changes will ensure compatibility between the environmental policy and the organization's strategic direction. This alignment will improve the performance of the EMS reducing waste and costs across the organization.

### An integrated approach

Known as the high level structure (HLS), ISO has introduced a common structure and core text for all of its management system standards. Using risk-based thinking throughout, it promotes a proactive approach to identifying risks and taking opportunities making continual improvement systematic. This leads to improved governance and decision making and makes it easier to integrate multiple systems, saving both time and money.

Organizations will continue to benefit from the changes to ISO 14001 and many are already implementing a number of the new requirements. It will give you an opportunity to review your current environmental system in line with your business strategy and ensure that your whole organization is working to the same common goals – leading to improved environmental and operational performance and more success.

BSI provides a unique combination of products and services to support the adoption of ISO 14001:2015.

**To find out more about how BSI can help you, visit: [bsigroup.com](http://bsigroup.com)**

\*Source: 2015 BSI Benefits - BSI clients were asked which benefits they obtained from ISO 14001:2004.

# Top tips on making **ISO 14001** effective for you

Every year we have interactions with tens of thousands of clients. Here are their top tips.

**Top management commitment** is key to making this a success.

"...ensure that your top management team really understands the importance of leadership in the new standard". Liz Collett, Overbury, UK Fit-out and Refurbishment business

**Keep staff informed** of what's going on, create a team or assign a champion, as this will increase motivation. This could include a well communicated plan of activities and timescales.

"When we decided to implement the new standard, we assigned an internal champion of the standard inside the organization". Ronald Tse, Ribose, Hong Kong cloud service provider

Think about how different departments work together to avoid silos. **Make sure the organization works as a team** for the benefit of customers and the organization.

"...all of our employees now understand the key metrics and the success factors". Maxime Clerk, Vortex Conseils, Canadian consultancy business

**Review systems, policies, procedures and processes** you have in place – you may already do much of what's in the standard and make it work for your business.

"There's a requirement in the new standard to document your EMS and that really encouraged us to document processes that have been in place for many years. This enabled the whole business to see, kind of, how the EMS fits together and the part they play in it". Liz Collett, Overbury, UK fit-out and refurbishment business

**Speak to your customers and suppliers.** They may be able to suggest improvements and give feedback on your service.

"...we had a brainstorming session and absolutely went through everything we could think of, pulling everyone's ideas in and then relating them to the business".

Toby Robins, Wiles Greenworld, UK sustainable office supply and stationary provider

**Train your staff to carry out internal audits.**

This can help with their understanding, but it could also provide valuable feedback on potential problems or opportunities for improvement.

"This course complemented my current knowledge very well. Emphasis on requirements of ISO 14001 was very useful and will undoubtedly help with implementation".

Stephanie Baker, PH Medisavers Ltd, UK medical glove manufacturer

And finally, when you gain certification celebrate your achievement and use the **BSI Assurance Mark** on your literature, website and promotional material.

