



ISO 14001

ISO 14001
Key benefits



ISO 14001 is an internationally agreed standard that sets out the requirements for an **environmental management system**. It helps organizations improve their environmental performance through more efficient use of resources and reduction of waste, gaining a **competitive advantage** and **the trust of stakeholders**.



What is an **environmental management system**?.....

An environmental management system helps organizations identify, manage, monitor and control their environmental issues **in a “holistic” manner**.

Other ISO standards that look at different types of management systems, such as ISO 9001 for quality management and ISO 45001 for occupational health and safety, all use a High-Level Structure. This means that ISO 14001 can be integrated easily into any existing ISO management system.

ISO 14001 is suitable for organizations of all types and sizes, be they private, not-for-profit or governmental. It requires that an organization considers all environmental issues relevant to its operations, such as air pollution, water and sewage issues, waste management, soil contamination, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and resource use and efficiency.

Like all ISO management system standards, ISO 14001 includes the need for **continual improvement** of an organization’s systems and approach to environmental concerns. The standard has recently been revised, with key improvements such as the increased prominence of environmental management within the organization’s strategic planning processes, greater input from leadership and a stronger commitment to proactive initiatives that boost environmental performance.

Encourage better environmental
performance of suppliers.

What **benefits** will it bring to my business or organization?

There are many reasons why an organization should take a strategic approach to improving its environmental performance. Users of the standard have reported that ISO 14001 helps:

- Demonstrate compliance with current and future **statutory and regulatory requirements**
- Increase leadership involvement and **engagement of employees**
- Improve company reputation and the **confidence of stakeholders** through strategic communication
- Achieve **strategic business aims** by incorporating environmental issues into business management
- Provide a **competitive and financial advantage** through improved efficiencies and reduced costs
- Encourage better **environmental performance of suppliers** by integrating them into the organization's business systems





ISO does
not perform
certification.

Should I be certified to ISO 14001?

Accredited certification to ISO 14001 is not a requirement, and organizations can reap many of the benefits from using the standard without going through the accredited certification process.

However, third-party certification – where an independent certification body audits your practices against the requirements of the standard – is a way of signalling to your buyers, customers, suppliers and other stakeholders that you have implemented the standard properly. What's more, for some organizations, it helps to show how they meet regulatory or contractual requirements.

Although we develop and publish standards, ISO does not perform certification. For more information about the certification process and how to find a certification body, please visit the “certification” section on our Website (www.iso.org).



Examples of **success** with ISO 14001

Organizations using ISO 14001 have found success across a range of areas, including reduced energy and water consumption, a more systematic approach to legal compliance and an improved overall environmental performance.





Premier Foods

Enhancing relationships with stakeholders and staff

“Since 2001, we have used ISO 14001 to make big improvements such as increasing our organization’s recycling rate. We have now been at “zero landfill” since March 2013 and are recycling and reusing 100 % of our site wastes. We have continued to improve our relationship with neighbours because we have the processes in place to respond quickly to any concerns. Among other benefits, our processes and the appointment of Green Matters Champions ensure that staff are environmentally engaged and aware of the site’s potential impact on the environment.”

Richard Giles

Premier Foods, UK





UPCON Corporation

Boosting confidence and competitiveness

“UPCON provides services to lift up sunken concrete floors using its unique UPCON method. Achieving certification to ISO 14001 in 2008 allowed us to document effectively the details of our method for all staff to share and standardize the quality of work at every site.

In addition to boosting our competitiveness through more accurate quality control, ISO 14001 also strengthens our confidence in our method by demonstrating that it produces 90 % less CO₂ emissions when compared to concrete replacement. What’s more, since our certification, staff engagement and motivation have increased, safe in the knowledge that they are contributing positively to the environment through our products and services.”

Nobukazu Matsudo

UPCON, Japan





**International Organization
for Standardization**

ISO Central Secretariat
Chemin de Blandonnet 8
Case Postale 401
CH – 1214 Vernier, Geneva
Switzerland

iso.org

© ISO, 2015
All rights reserved
ISBN 978-92-67-10647-2