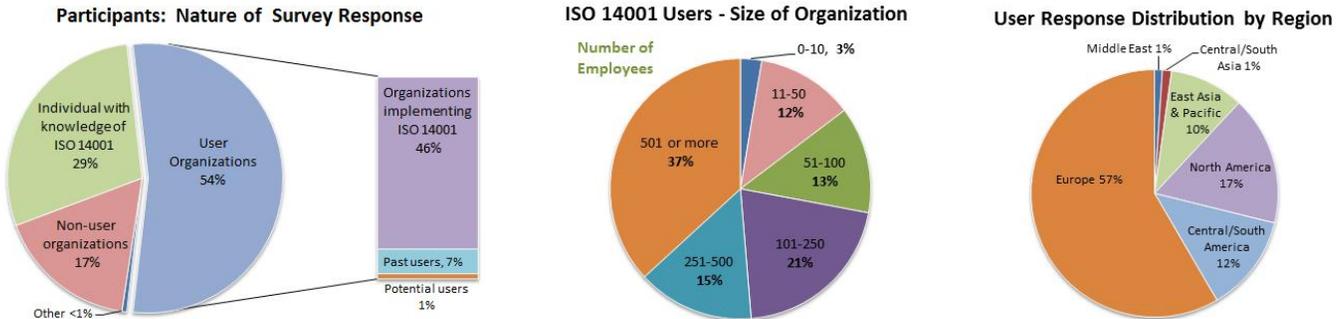




In 2013 ISO/TC 207/SC 1 conducted a survey on ISO 14001 and ISO 14004 covering a range of potential areas for continual improvement. This summary sets out some of the key overall findings. Further detailed information is available from <http://www.iso.org/iso/tc207sc1home>.

The survey was issued in 11 languages through national member bodies, and garnered an unprecedented response with close to 5000 participants in 110 countries worldwide. The following sets out the distribution of responses.



**Survey Scope**

The survey questionnaire included questions related to the perceived value of the ISO 14001 standard for both business management and environmental management, and the extent to which ISO 14001 should address or strengthen attention to future challenges for environmental management systems.<sup>1</sup>

**Future Challenges**

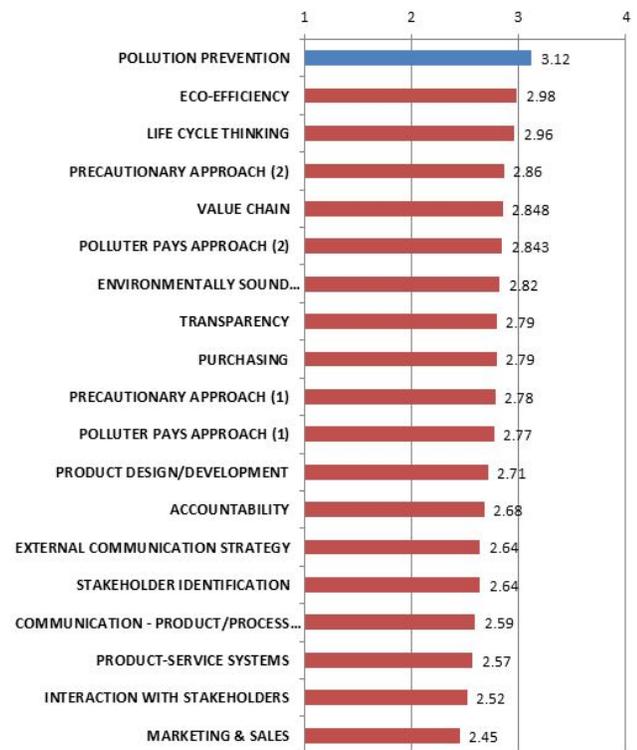
Participants were asked to indicate the extent to which ISO 14001 and ISO 14004 should strengthen attention to 19 environmental management concepts identified in the ISO/TC 207/SC 1 Future Challenges Report, as indicated in the adjacent figure.

Based on a weighted average for the Likert-scale responses from 1-4, participants suggested a limited to moderate approach for all future challenge concepts except the prevention of pollution. This was indicated by a weighted average rating between 2.0 and 3.0 for all other concepts. For *prevention of pollution: avoiding, reducing, and controlling waste and pollution in order to reduce adverse environmental impacts*, responses leaned toward a stronger approach, with a weighted average of 3.12.

It should be noted that concepts of *eco-efficiency: implementing strategies for efficient use of resources, and for reducing waste and pollution*, and *life cycle thinking: identifying and evaluating environmental aspects related to the life cycle of products and services*, came very close to a weighted average rating of 3.0.

A more detailed analysis, including participant profile information and responses on future challenges for environmental management systems is provided in the Technical Summary Analysis and supporting materials.

**Future Challenges: Weighted Average Value**



<sup>1</sup> As identified in the ISO/TC 207/SC1 Future Challenges Study Group N 9 “Final report on the future challenges of EMS and ISO 14001.”

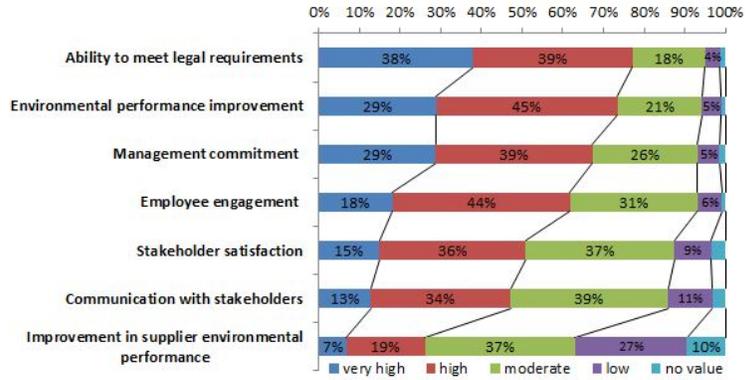
## The Value of ISO 14001 for Users

For environmental management, responses from users suggest that organizations have realized significant value from ISO 14001 in terms of meeting legal requirements, improving environmental performance, and enhancing management commitment and stakeholder engagement. Close to 75% of participants indicated 'high' or 'very high' value for meeting legal requirements and improving the organization's environmental performance, while more than 60% indicated 'high' to 'very high value' for management commitment and employee engagement. Overall, 85% or more indicated *at least* a moderate value in all categories except improvement in supplier environmental performance. 63% of user responses indicated at least moderate value in this area.

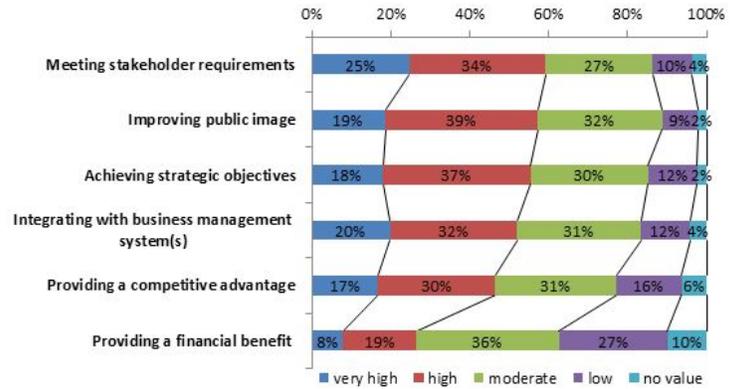
Responses from users also suggest that ISO 14001 has provided considerable value for business management, most notably for meeting stakeholder requirements, improving public image, achieving strategic objectives, and integrating with business management systems. More than half of participants indicated 'high' to 'very high' value, and more than 80% indicated *at least* a moderate value in these areas. Furthermore, 78% and 63% of responses indicated *at least* a moderate value in terms of providing a competitive advantage and financial benefit, respectively.

These results correspond with reported motivations for adopting the Standard. Based on user rankings of factors influencing their adoption of the standard, the strongest environmental drivers<sup>2</sup> for adopting ISO 14001 included commitment to environmental protection/conservation, and reduction of risk of adverse environmental impact. Primary influences related to business management included customer requirements and public image. However, while opportunities for integration with other management standards applied by the organization (such as ISO 9001, ISO 50001, ISO 26000, and OHSAS 18001) were not ranked in the top tier as a motivating factor, more than half of user responses indicated high value for business management in this area.

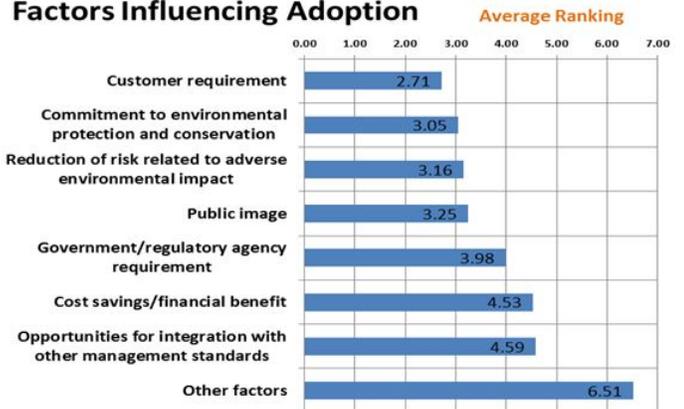
## Value of ISO 14001 for Environmental Management



## Value of ISO 14001 for Business Management



## Factors Influencing Adoption



### Fact box

The ISO 14001 Standard provides organizations of any type, size, or geographic location with a systematic framework to support environmental protection. It is periodically reviewed and revised in order to reflect the state of the art for environmental management systems (EMS). Development of the third edition of the Standard is directed towards continual improvement, alignment with other management systems standards, and consideration of future challenges for environmental management systems. In order to inform this development and gain an understanding of 'user' perspectives in relation to EMS standards, ISO/TC 207/SC 1 established an ad-hoc group (AHG) in 2012 to design and administer a continual improvement survey.

### Special thanks to the membership of the Ad-Hoc Group – User Survey ISO 14001

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