

## ISO 14001:2015 UPDATE

ISO has officially published the Final Draft International Standard (FDIS) for ISO 14001:2015, signalling the penultimate stage of the revision process for the world's most widely adopted international environmental management system (EMS) standard. The final standard is currently due for publication in September 2015.

### THE CHANGES

**ISO 14001:2015** will be more compatible with other management systems, such as ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 27001:2013.

With the incorporation of Annex SL, which is the high level structure and common text for all new and revised **ISO management system standards**, some of the main new requirements include organisational context, knowledge and risk-based thinking.

The new standard will follow this ten section structure:

1. Scope
2. Normative References
3. Terms and Definitions
4. Context of the Organization
5. Leadership
6. Planning
7. Support
8. Operation
9. Performance Evaluation
10. Improvement

An overview of the changes includes:

#### **Context of the organisation**

The standard introduces a new requirement to identify the internal and external factors and conditions that affect an organisation.

#### **Leadership**

There is a requirement for top management to demonstrate leadership and management directly with the system. There is now far more emphasis on this requirement compared to the older standard.

#### **Strategic Environmental Management**

Top management needs to ensure that the environmental policy and environmental objectives are consistent with the overall business strategy, and that management review outputs include any implications for the strategic direction of the organisation

#### **Risk associates with threats and opportunities.**

This has been introduced to the planning section of the standard. It requires the organisation to identify the risk associated with its threats and opportunities and take action to address them.

#### **Life Cycle perspective**

The standard requires that the identification of aspects and impacts should now be done whilst considering a life cycle perspective.

#### **Value chain control and influence**

Environmental requirements need to be established and considered throughout the procurement and design activities of the organisation's products and services

#### **Performance Evaluation**

There is a new emphasis on the need for evaluation in addition to the current requirements for measurement and analysis.

## TERMINOLOGY

Much of the terminology is the same but the following are some changes:

- Documents and records are now referred to as documented information
- Legal and other requirements are now referred to as compliance obligations
- Management Representative is no longer in the standard
- Preventive action is no longer in the standard
- Leadership, risk, threat, opportunity, environmental conditions and life cycle are new to the standard

## TRANSITION TO ISO 14001:2015

All World Certification Services (WCS) certified clients will be required to transition to the new ISO 14001:2015 standard.

- There will be a three year transition period from the date the new standard is published.
- Existing certification can be upgraded at any time although to upgrade during a surveillance audit will require more audit duration.
- WCS is still accepting new applications to the old standard and we will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.
- Any current or new ISO 14001:2004 certificates will be valid until three years from the release of ISO 14001:2015.

## HOW CAN WCS HELP WITH YOUR TRANSITION

- Gap Analysis Audit - WCS is able to complete a gap analysis audit on your environmental management system identifying areas of weakness against the new ISO 14001:2015. This will be charged at a day rate of £600 plus VAT and can be a single day or multiple days depending on the size of the organisation. A report will be provided at the end of the analysis showing actions required. If you are interested in this service please email [info@world-cert.co.uk](mailto:info@world-cert.co.uk).
- Client Awareness Seminar - WCS will be holding these in the first half of 2016. Please email [training@world-cert.co.uk](mailto:training@world-cert.co.uk) to register your interest and WCS will provide details nearer the time.
- Need a consultant – WCS can't recommend a consultant as it has to be completely impartial. However WCS does hold a list of consultants throughout the UK and would be happy to send you some local contact details.
- Don't panic. You have more than three years to transition. WCS will work with all our clients in order to facilitate a smooth transition.

## UKAS ACCREDITATION

WCS will be required to go through a UKAS transition process in order to achieve accreditation and be authorised to provide certification to the new standard.

WCS expect UKAS to audit the WCS internal system in April / May 2016 and it is hoped that WCS can provide UKAS Accredited Certification to ISO 14001:2015 from June / July 2016.

