



EAGLE Certification Group
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Why ISO 14001 is Critical for Your Strategic Roadmap

ISO 14001

ISO 14001 is an international standard that sets the framework for an effective environmental management system (EMS) within organizations. First published in 1996, ISO 14001 provides a systematic approach for companies of any size to identify, manage, and mitigate their environmental impact.

Implementing ISO 14001 is the starting point to demonstrate a duty to responsible environmental stewardship. By making such a commitment, the management cycle can identify cost-saving opportunities and deliver benefits of improved resource efficiency and reduced resource consumption.

So why is this important for your strategic plan and organizational roadmap?

First and foremost, we are witnessing environmental issues and disasters on a regular basis. This is not a new phenomenon or an extraordinary event. History is a good predictor of the future, well-articulated by Franklin D. Roosevelt.

**“Men and nature must work hand in hand.
The throwing out of **balance of the resources** of nature
throws out of **balance also the lives of men.**”**

— Franklin D. Roosevelt

Let's consider the expected outcomes for ISO 14001 for an organization with a certified EMS:

- A. Preventing pollution.
- B. Meeting applicable legal and other requirements.
- C. Improving overall environmental performance.

Preventing pollution

Through comprehensive risk assessments and setting environmental objectives, ISO 14001 helps companies pinpoint sources of pollution. Implementing effective control measures and monitoring systems enable organizations to reduce or eliminate these sources of pollution and reduce their environmental footprint.

Examples in the United States include ISO 14001 certified organizations supporting America Recycles Day, as part of the Keep America Beautiful for community improvement, and taking a pragmatic approach for better understanding of The Federal Pollution Prevention Act of 1990.



KEEP AMERICA
BEAUTIFUL



Meeting applicable legal and other requirements

Managing a company's environmental aspects and impacts is fundamental to maintain regulatory compliance. It is widely accepted that there will be ever-more stringent Environmental Social Governance (ESG) requirements from government federal agencies such as the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

It is important to note, all US governmental federal agencies must adopt international standards ahead of industry standards and government standards, where applicable.



The EPA is an ISO proponent and the agency recommends ISO 14001 to organizations as a valuable management tool. In the future, while ISO 14001 will always be a voluntary standard, it could serve as the basis for providing regulatory flexibility to organizations who successfully implement and sustain this EMS.



Executive Order 13514

In 2009, US Government signed Executive Order 13514, Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance. The directive was established as an integrated strategy towards sustainability in the Federal Government making reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions a priority for Federal agencies. Each agency being required to implement, and maintain an EMS reflecting the elements and framework found in ISO 14001. To be used to identify and address agency environmental, transportation, and energy issues.



U.S. SECURITIES AND
EXCHANGE COMMISSION

United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)

Legal requirements around GHG emission reductions are further supported by the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Climate Financial Disclosure Rules. These rules require disclosures about climate-related risks that are reasonably likely to have a material impact on their business. This includes direct, indirect and value chain (upstream and downstream) GHG emissions.



Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD)

Beyond the United States, the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) forms the foundation of the proposals from the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) which are defining similar expectations for organizations around climate-related disclosures.

Examples where governments use ISO 14001 for environmental protection and public policy can be found at publicsectorassurance.org and policy.iso.org.



Improving overall environmental performance

ISO 14001 provides the framework. Essentially, a structured approach that enables companies to assess their environmental impacts comprehensively, set clear environmental objectives, and establish robust monitoring and measurement systems. By doing so, organizations can identify areas where they can reduce resource consumption, minimize waste generation, and lower emissions.



An example is the automotive partnership **drivesustainability.org**, where the sector promotes ISO 14001 in their 'Supplier Handbook'. The ISO 14001 - Key Benefits brochure can be downloaded from: **iso.org**.



Case studies, research and supporting material for improving environmental performance can be found at: **business-benefits.org**.

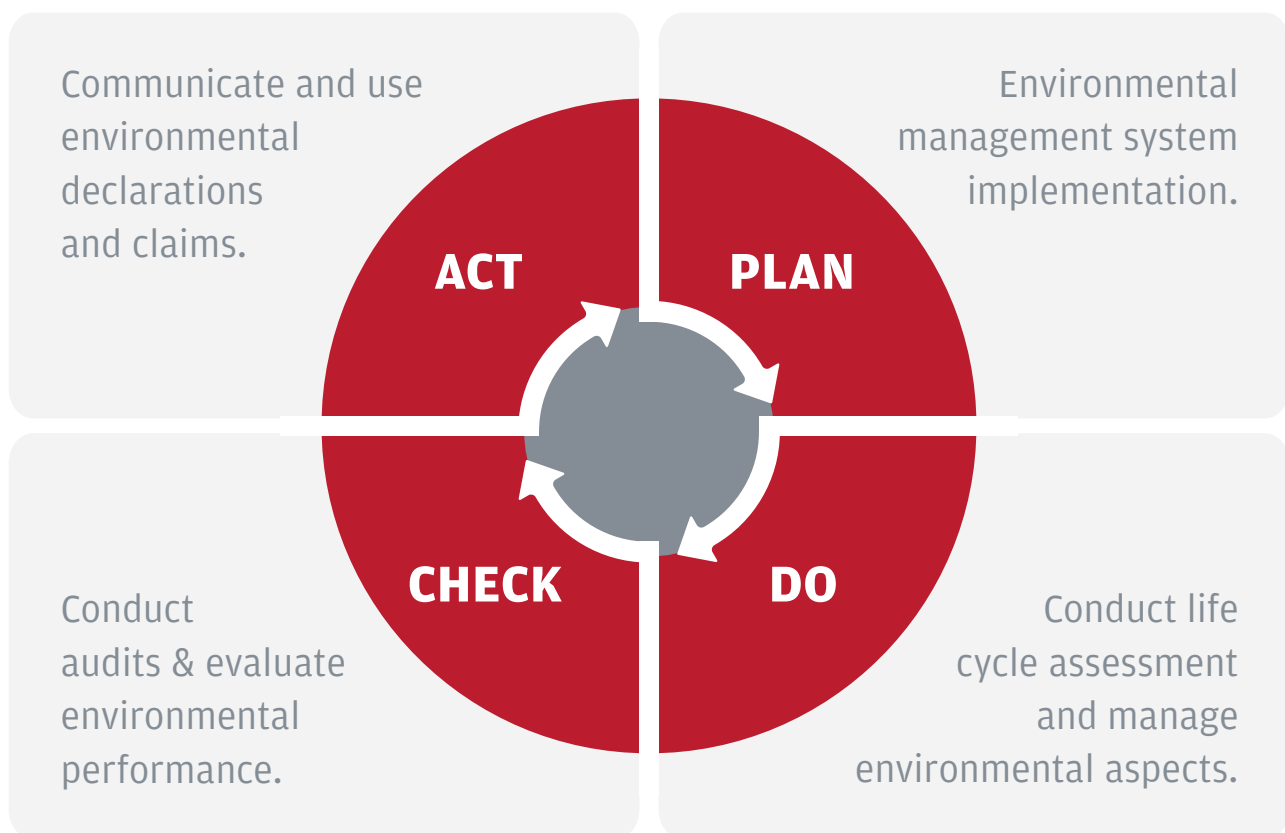
IBM uses ISO 14001 to save 6.7% of global energy use

ISO 14001 improves environmental performance in US manufacturing

ISO 14001 certification provides critical positive impact

ISO 14000 Family and Plan, Do, Check, Act (PDCA)

ISO management systems are structured using a Plan, Do, Check, Act (PDCA) cycle. A systems approach is practical because it enables any organization to assess its own environmental aspects and impacts and set the bar in its environmental goals and objectives. The PDCA model drives continual improvement, making sure that environmental impacts are reduced over time and environmental performance is improved year-on-year.



The starting point is ISO 14050. Prior to implementing a common framework, all organizations must adopt a common vocabulary. This is a global reference point along with IWA 42 Net zero guidelines which is essential because it allows the private sector, public sector, IGOs and NGOs to speak the same language.

The ISO 14000 family is the bridge between companies and the finance sector who require climate risk disclosures. Although the ISO 14000 family of standards are designed to be mutually supportive, they can also be used independently of each other to achieve environmental goals and objectives.

PLAN	DO	CHECK	ACT
ISO 14050 Vocabulary	ISO 14040 Life cycle assessment – Principles and framework	ISO 14015 Guidelines for environmental due diligence assessment	ISO 14020 Environmental labels and declarations – Principles and General Requirements
ISO 14001 Requirements with guidance for use	ISO 14044 Life cycle assessment – Requirements and guidelines	ISO 14031 Environmental performance evaluation – Guidelines	ISO 14021 Environmental labels and declarations (Type II)
ISO 14004 General guidelines on implementation	ISO/TR 14047 Illustrative examples on how to apply ISO 14044	ISO 19011 Guidelines for auditing management systems	ISO 14024 Environmental labels and declarations (Type I)
ISO 14005 Guidelines for a flexible approach to phased implementation	ISO/TS 14048 Life cycle assessment – Data documentation format		ISO 14025 Environmental labels and declarations (Type III)
ISO 14006 Guidelines for incorporating ecodesign	ISO/TR 14049 Illustrative examples on how to apply ISO 14044	ISO 14064-3 Greenhouse gases – Part 3: validation and verification bodies	ISO 14063 Environmental communication – Guidelines and examples
ISO 14100 Guidance on environmental criteria for green finance	ISO 14051, ISO 14052 & ISO 14053 Material flow cost accounting – General framework & Guidance	ISO 14030: Part 1-4 Environmental performance evaluation – Green debt instruments	
ISO 14090 Adaptation to climate change – Principles, requirements and guidelines	ISO 14064: Part 1 & 2 Greenhouse gases – Specification with guidance ISO 14067 Greenhouse gases – Carbon footprint of products ISO 14068 Greenhouse gases – Carbon Neutrality	ISO 14065 Greenhouse gases – validation and verification bodies	ISO/TR 14069 Greenhouse gases – Guidance for the application of ISO 14064-1

Conclusion

Integrating ISO 14001 into a company's strategic plan is critical for multiple reasons. As well as a commitment to responsible environmental stewardship it also aligns with the growing global focus on sustainability. ISO 14001 can reinforce a company's reputation, open doors to new business opportunities, and strengthen its competitive position in an increasingly eco-conscious business landscape. In an era where environmental considerations are integral to business success, the ISO 14000 family of standards serves as strategic tools that not only safeguards the planet but also embeds a philosophy of strong performance. A mature and robust EMS will provide resilience for long-term growth and profitability. Last but not least, it's about doing the right thing all the time, even when no one is looking!

About EAGLE Certification Group

Since 1994, EAGLE has built a reputation on providing third party auditing services that are objective and value-added. Based in Dayton Ohio, our competent, industry-experienced auditors are well-versed in helping clients ensure their quality, environmental, health and safety, or food safety management systems are robust and effective. EAGLE is ANAB-accredited and a certified, woman-owned business through the Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC). EAGLE is the North American member

of IQNET, a leading international association of certification bodies and fully committed to the global IAF Cert Search database, resulting in transparency and confidence that clients can trust.

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