



iqms Learning

ISO 14001: 2026 Update for EMN

22nd July 2026



Welcome Everyone

ISO 14001: 2026 Update for EMN

**Hosted by: Ailsa Anderson and Steve Nicholas
Presenter: Wendy Bowman**

Housekeeping

During the Session

- This webinar is a listening only event. Your microphone will be turned off. The webinar will last for 60 minutes only and we hope to allow up to 15 minutes for questions.
- If you have any questions during the session please add into the chat or ask at the end of the Session and we will answer any questions if time permits. Any questions that we cannot answer during the webinar please contact EMN and we will provide a response after the event. We will circulate the questions and responses to all participants.
- After this event we will provide all attendees with a copy of the slide presentation



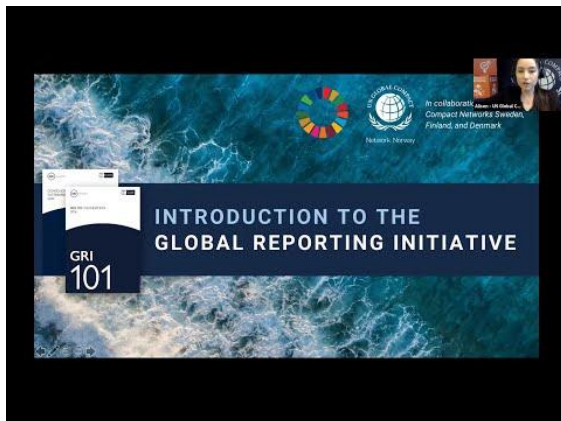
Purpose of today's webinar

To provide a brief insight into the new and amended requirements in the recently published

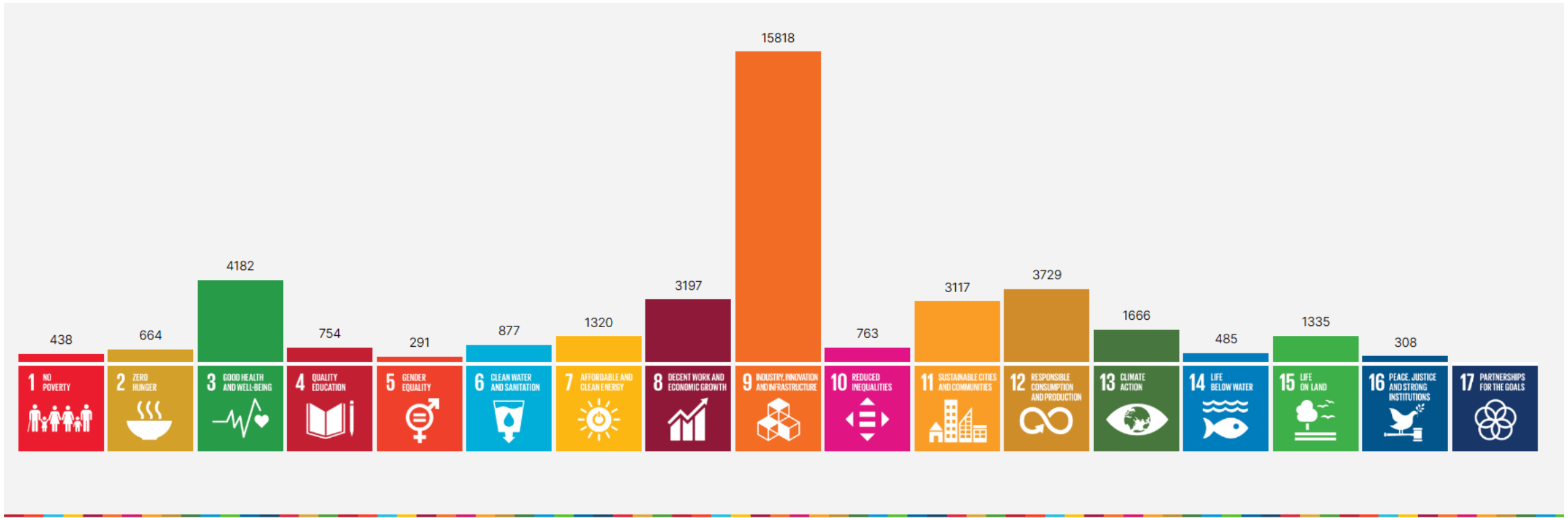
ISO 14001:2026 Environmental Management Systems Standard – Requirements with guidance for use

along with information on upcoming courses, updating existing qualifications and timelines for implementation.

Why customers are asking engineering suppliers for more environmental information

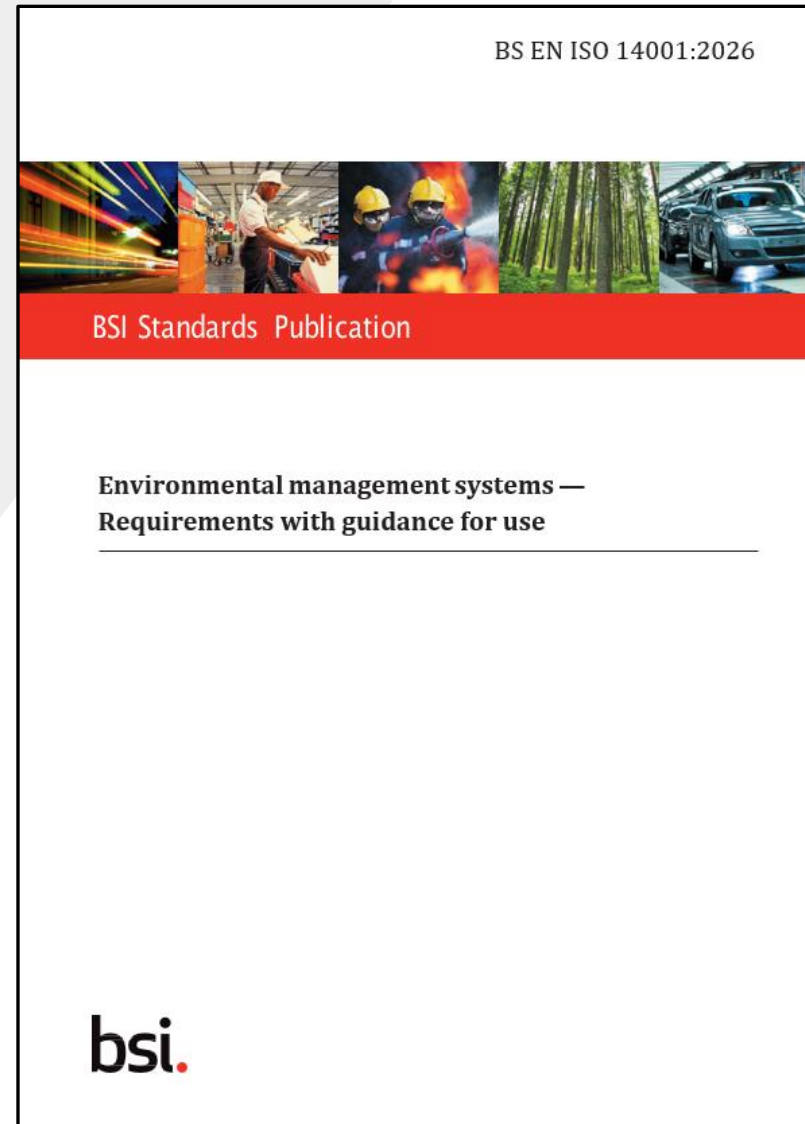


ISO Standards supporting UN SDGs



ISO 14001:2026

- First published in 1996
- Second edition, 2004 – principally clarification and refinement of the 1996 requirements
- Third edition, 2015 – major changes and restructure
- Fourth edition, 2026 – ISO classes these as “moderate changes”
- ISO Technical Committee 207 (ISO/TC 207) – “refinement” not a fundamental rewrite,
- “Evolution not revolution”

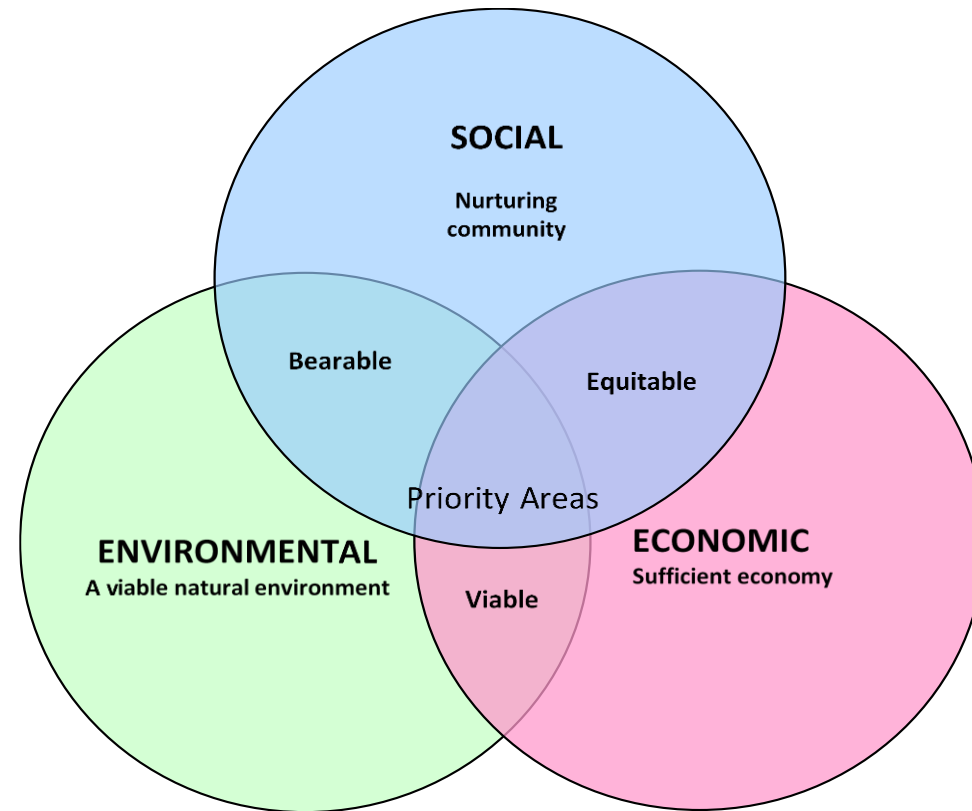
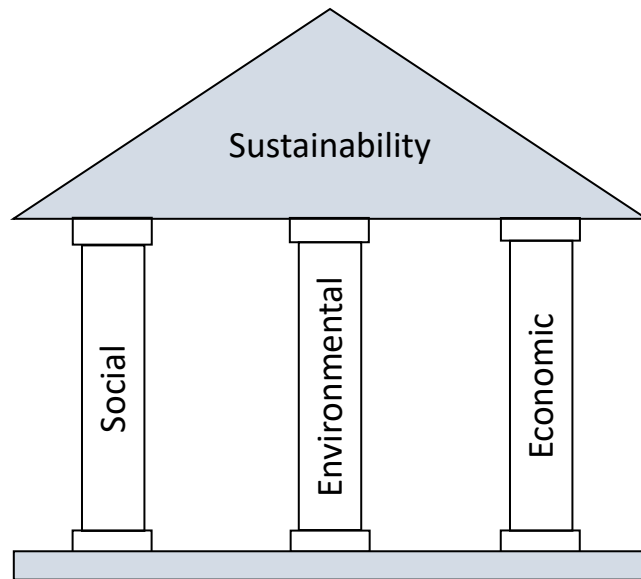


ISO 14001:2026 - Foreword

- The main changes (as referenced in the ISO 14001 standard itself) are as follows:
 - Incorporation of latest ISO requirements for management system standards as appropriate
 - Clarification of requirements associated with key topics

ISO 14001:2026 – Introduction, 0.1 Background

Sustainable Development



ISO 14001:2026 – What has changed

- **Clause 3 – Terms and Definitions – ISO and IEC common terminology**
- **Terms removed**
 - **“Risk” removed.** This may be removed from some of the other management system standards being developed or revised.
BUT “Risk and opportunities” remains – with risk being an adverse or negative effect and opportunities a beneficial/positive effect. “Threats” removed from explanation.
 - **“Outsource” removed.** Refer to clause 8.1 – “externally provided processes, products or services”
- **Redefined**
 - **“Indicator”** now redefined as “quantitative, qualitative or **binary variable** that can be measured or described, representing the status of operations, management, conditions or impacts”.

ISO 14001:2026 – What has changed

Clause 4 – Context of the Organisation

Sub-Clause 4.1

- When identifying issues explicit environmental conditions must (“shall”) now be considered including “pollution levels, availability of natural resources, climate change, biodiversity or ecosystem health”.
- *What is an environmental condition?* ISO 14001 Definition – “state or characteristic of the environment as determined at a certain point of time”
- **Annex A4.1** – “environmental conditions can be local, regional or global and subject to sudden or gradual change”

Sub-Clause 4.2

- **Note** in 4.2 “relevant interested parties” links to the above conditions

Sub-Clause 4.3

- EMS scope extends the requirement when considering its own authority to control and influence...over the lifecycle of its activities, products and services (4.3 e)
- Key documents must be “available as documented information” – continues throughout the standard (“document”)

Action recommended: Review & update your organisation context analysis, stakeholder needs analysis and EMS scope.

ISO 14001:2026– What has changed

Clause 5 – Leadership and Commitment

- **Sub-clause 5.1** extends support to all “other” relevant roles – not just managers
- **Sub-clause 5.2 (d)** The requirement to “fulfil compliance obligations has been updated to “meet compliance obligations” and throughout the standard (“document”) in policy
- **Sub-clause 5.2 c)** A Note to clarify “other specific commitments” might mean - with a greater emphasis on, for example, conserving the planet’s natural resources, protection of ecosystems, climate change mitigation

Action recommended: Review and update your environmental policy and determine whether any additional commitments are appropriate to be included & leadership are fully briefed on the implications and are engaged.

ISO 14001:2026– What has changed

Clause 6 – Planning – Restructure of clause

Clause 6.1 **Actions to address risk and opportunities** now has an additional sub-clause and has been restructured and requirements redistributed

- 6.1.1: short paragraph.
- 6.1.2: same title
- 6.1.3: same title
- 6.1.4: becomes “Risks and opportunities” with content relocated from 6.1.1 General – as the previous clauses are sources of risks and opportunities
- 6.1.5: “Planning action” to implement output of 6.1.2, 6.1.3 and 6.1.4 and plan, implement, monitor and review the actions (“**PDCA manage**”) that the organisation has determined are necessary.
- PDCA manage actions accordingly – renumbered from 6.1.4
- **Action recommended:** Refresh your risk/opportunity documents and PDCA manage those actions determined as being needed.

ISO 14001:2026– What has changed

Clause 6 – Planning

In sub-clause 6.1.2 Environmental Aspects

- Clarification of what is meant by “life cycle perspective” when determining aspects/impacts in Note.
- Potential emergency situations need to be “determined” to include those with an environmental impact within 6.1.2 not 6.1.1 and this links to 8.2 Emergency Preparedness and Response

New sub-clause

- **Sub-clause 6.3:** requires a structured approach to EMS related change management initiatives – managing change was previously referenced briefly in 6.1.2 Aspects and 8.1 Operational planning and control

Action recommended: Review aspect & impact evaluations and PDCA manage those actions determined as being needed.

ISO 14001:2026– What has changed

Clause 7 – Support

Now requires that all EMS records must be “available as documented information” (previously “retained”) – applies throughout the standard for “maintained” and “retained”

Action recommended: No specific action directly relates to changes in the section. However individually organisations when reviewing contextual and planning changes may need to review their Support needs.

Clause 8 – Operations

- “Outsourced processes” are now referred to as “externally provided processes, products or services”.
- Operational controls must extend to and include suppliers and other external relationships – but control/influence should be appropriate to their environmental significance
- Emergency preparedness must align with potential emergencies as identified in environmental aspects (Clause 6.1.2)

Action recommended: Review supplier and contractor management and emergency response planning and resourcing.

ISO 14001 – What has changed

Clause 9 – Performance evaluation

- **Sub-clause 9.1.1** Explicit requirement to “evaluate its environmental performance **and the EMS effectiveness**” – relocated within subclause
- **Sub-clause 9.2 Internal Audit**
- When planning internal audit programme:
 - “shall consider”... replaces “ shall take into consideration”;
 - “objective(s)” of the audits must now be defined, in addition to “scope and criteria” and documented
- **Sub-clause 9.3 Management reviews** are restructured into three sub-clauses, namely, general, inputs and outputs – aligns with ISO 9001

Action recommended: Review and update internal audit and management review processes as necessary

ISO 14001 – What has changed

Clause 10 – Improvement

- Old clause 10.1 has been renamed “Continual Improvement” and the content of 10.3 has been integrated into 10.1
- There is now a mandatory link between the outputs produced from **Clause 9** requirements and **Clause 10.2**, (i.e. performance monitoring and measurement information/data that has been analysed, internal audits, input into management review for evaluation and nonconformities) which is used to determine areas of opportunity for continual improvement

Action recommended: Review existing processes which manage improvements.

ISO 14001:2026– What has changed

Annex A – updated with improved and more substantial guidance for e.g. on life-cycle perspective inputs/outputs, planning and managing change.

Refers to ongoing support of the meaning of the requirements by engaging with Technical Committee 207 (who are responsible for ISO 14001 and the ISO 14000 family)

[ISO/TC 207/SC 1 — ISO/TC 207 Environmental Management](#)

References ISO 14002 series - Environmental management systems — Guidelines for using ISO 14001 to address environmental aspects and conditions within an environmental topic area e.g. water and in development - climate change, resources & waste, etc.

And remember also to review EMS documentation, changes to terms and definitions, its location(s) and structure as necessary

What does this mean for an engineering company?

Change	Engineering Implication
Environmental conditions	Consider climate resilience, resources, local pollution and ecosystems
Lifecycle perspective	Consider materials, design, production, use, repair and end of life
Risks and opportunities	Link environmental issues to investment and operational decisions
Planning changes	Review environmental implications before changing equipment or processes
External providers	Strengthen controls over critical suppliers and subcontractors
Emergency planning	Include spills, firewater, drainage, dust, chemicals and equipment failure
Performance evaluation	Use reliable operational data to evaluate environmental performance
Continual improvement	Convert monitoring and audit results into measurable improvements

Transition – timeframe and actions

Timelines

- Start of transition timeline - April 2026
- Three year (36 months) from this date, so **expected** end April 2029? Needs to be confirmed.

Suggested Actions for Transition:

- Gap Analysis between your EMS and the 2026 version
- Engage with top management to ensure their understanding and implications for leadership and their risk and opportunities decision-making.
- Train/brief implications and planning actions
- Documentation changes
- Internal audit of upgrades to the EMS and before your certification transition audit make sure that you have conducted a Management Review of the effectiveness of any changes

IRCA approved courses to the ISO 14001:2026 standard

IRCA “go live date” from 1st June 2026 – courses to ISO 14001:2015 are only available up until November 2026

iqms Learning upcoming course dates are:

- ISO 14001:2026 Foundation – 21st September, 1st December 2026 (remote)
- ISO 14001:2026 Internal Auditor – 22nd-23rd September, 2nd-3rd December
- ISO 14001 Lead Auditor – 24th-28th August, 2nd-6th November 2026. This course is both CQI and IRCA and ISEP branded



IRCA Briefing Notes

Briefing Notes

IRCA Trained Auditor

<https://www.quality.org/file-download/download/private/32370>

Implementer Briefing Note

<https://www.quality.org/file-download/download/private/32371>

If you are an existing IRCA trained auditor

IRCA have developed a CPD update for ISO 14001:2026:

- On-demand, e-learning course
- 60-90 minutes at £30-£39 (depending on whether you are a member)
- Knowledge Check – questions to be answered to successfully pass
- Registration lasts for 1 year
- Accepted by IRCA satisfies transition requirements

This is NOT the ONLY way to satisfy transition requirements

ISO 19011:2026 was published in May 2026 and has replaced ISO 19011:2018

Questions and Answer Session

