

ISO 14001:2026

THE NEXT STEP IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

A practical guide to the anticipated changes and how organizations can prepare

FROM ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE TO ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

The 2026 revision strengthens the familiar EMS framework while placing greater focus on climate resilience, biodiversity, sustainable resource use, lifecycle thinking, environmental performance, leadership accountability and structured change management.

7 AREAS TO WATCH

CLAUSE 4 CONTEXT WHAT'S DIFFERENT Environmental conditions are given greater emphasis when determining organizational context, including climate change, pollution, biodiversity and natural-resource availability. Lifecycle considerations are also reflected more clearly in the EMS scope. WHAT TO REVIEW Review context, interested parties, EMS scope and lifecycle considerations within your EMS boundaries	CLAUSE 5 LEADERSHIP & COMMITMENT WHAT'S DIFFERENT The terminology around compliance obligations is updated, with stronger emphasis on ecosystem protection, natural-resource conservation and leadership accountability for EMS performance. WHAT TO REVIEW Review the Environmental Policy, leadership involvement and how environmental commitments are connected to organizational strategy.
CLAUSE 6 PLANNING WHAT'S DIFFERENT A new Clause 6.3 addresses planning and managing EMS-related changes. Planning requirements are also reorganized, with clearer treatment of risks, opportunities and planned actions. WHAT TO REVIEW Revisit environmental risk assessments, aspect-impact evaluations, change-management controls and environmental action planning.	CLAUSE 7 SUPPORT WHAT'S DIFFERENT The use of available as documented information is applied more consistently, while communication requirements place greater emphasis on employee participation and contribution to continual improvement. WHAT TO REVIEW Refresh awareness and training programs, internal communication processes and control of EMS documented information.
CLAUSE 8 OPERATION WHAT'S DIFFERENT The terminology changes from outsourced processes to externally provided processes, products or services, with clearer attention to suppliers, contractors and external service providers. WHAT TO REVIEW Strengthen supplier and contractor controls, procurement-related environmental controls and emergency preparedness and response processes.	CLAUSE 9 PERFORMANCE WHAT'S DIFFERENT Greater emphasis is placed on evaluating environmental performance and EMS effectiveness. Internal audit requirements also clarify the need for audit objectives, alongside scope and criteria. WHAT TO REVIEW Check environmental performance indicators, internal audit procedures, audit objectives, management-review inputs, processes and results.
CLAUSE 10 IMPROVEMENT WHAT'S DIFFERENT Clause 10.1 is removed, with its content integrated into Clauses 10.2 and 10.3. Nonconformity, corrective action and continual improvement are presented through a more structured approach. WHAT TO REVIEW Strengthen root-cause analysis, corrective-action tracking and evidence that improvement activities are measurable and effective.	THE NEXT STEP IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT 

ISO 14001:2015 → 2026 READINESS CHECK

01	02	03	04	05	06
CONTEXT	LEADERSHIP	PLANNING	OPERATION	PERFORMANCE	IMPROVEMENT
Have you considered relevant environmental conditions such as climate change, pollution, biodiversity and resource availability?	Can you demonstrate leadership accountability for EMS performance?	Are environmental risks, opportunities and changes actively managed?	Are suppliers, contractors and external providers effectively controlled from an environmental perspective?	Do your indicators demonstrate environmental performance and EMS effectiveness?	Can you demonstrate that findings and performance results lead to measurable improvement?

START YOUR TRANSITION PLAN

Understand → Gap assess → Prioritise → Update → Train → Audit → Improve

A practical guide to the revised EMS requirements and how organizations can prepare for transition.

As a trusted certification body, **URS** supports organizations with their ISO 14001:2026 transition through gap assessments, readiness audits, transition training and certification services. We also provide integrated management system support for **ISO 9001, ISO 45001, ISO 27001 and more.**

Start your ISO 14001:2026 transition with URS. **More details:** info@urs-me.com