

Transition guideline and procedure for QCS (From ISO 14001:2004 to ISO 14001:2015)



The purpose of this International Standard is to provide organizations with a framework to protect the environment and respond to changing environmental conditions in balance with socio-economic needs. It specifies requirements that enable an organization to achieve the intended outcomes it sets for its Environmental Management System.

Reference- ISO 14001:2015

AIM OF THE DOCUMENT

This aim of this Transition Guideline document is facilitating your meeting the requirements of the new international standard for Environmental Management System (EMS) ISO 14001:2015, which replaces the previous version ISO 14001:2004

WHY THE CHANGE

As per ISO, All ISO standards are reviewed every five years to establish if a revision is required in order to keep it current and relevant for the marketplace. ISO 14001:2015 is designed to respond to latest trends and ensure it is compatible with other management system standards.

There are a number of objectives associated with this revision, but the following are considered most critical.

- Increased prominence of environmental management within the organization's strategic planning processes.
- Greater focus on leadership
- Addition of proactive initiatives to protect the environment from harm and degradation, such as sustainable resource use and climate change mitigation.
- Improving environmental performance added
- Lifecycle thinking when considering environmental aspects.
- Addition of a communications strategy.
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Transition Process:



Certified organizations using ISO 14001:2004 are recommended to take the following actions:-

- I. Identify the organizational gaps which needs to be addressed to meet new requirements
- II. Develop an implementation plan
- III. Provide appropriate training and awareness for all parties that have an impact on the effectiveness of the organization
- IV. Update the existing environmental management system to meet the revised requirements and provide verification of the effectiveness.

QCS will implement the transition in the phased manner as under:

For New Applicants:

QCS will not accept any new applications as per ISO 14001:2004 from 1st April 2017. All applications thereafter will be accepted only as ISO 14001:2015.

The validity of the certificates granted to organizations as per ISO 14001:2004 may be increased to make the certificate valid for a full three years after ascertaining the conformity to ISO 14001:2015.

For Existing Certified Organizations:

QCS will undertake all audits including surveillance or recertification as per ISO 14001:2015 only from Jan 1, 2017. However, any non compliance with the new requirements will be treated as 'Observations' only however, the non compliance against ISO 14001:2004 will be treated as 'Non Compliance'. The observations pending or raised on or after August 31, 2017 will be treated as Nonconformity without impacting the certification status of the client. The nonconformities pending on August 31, 2018 may affect the certification status of the organization depending upon the severity and may lead to cancellation of the certification granted. The certificates of organizations who fail to complete the transition by August 31, 2018 will be treated as invalid however the certificate may be reinstated after ensuring the compliance with ISO 14001:2015.

For any further clarification please contact at:

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