

Implementation of
ISO 14001:1996

Environmental management systems — Specification with guidance for use

The European Standard EN ISO 14001:1996 has the status of a
British Standard

ICS 13.020

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- Association of Environmental Consultancies
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National foreword

This British Standard has been prepared by Technical Committee ES/1 and is the English language version of EN ISO 14001:1996, *Environmental management systems — Specification with guidance for use* published by the European Committee for Standardization (CEN). It is identical with ISO 14001:1996 published by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). It supersedes BS 7750:1994 which will be withdrawn on 31 st March 1997.

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Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, the EN title page, pages 2 to 16 and a back cover.

This standard has been updated (see copyright date) and may have had amendments incorporated. This will be indicated in the amendment table on the inside front cover.

ICS 13.020

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English version

Environmental management systems — Specification with guidance for use

(ISO 14001:1996)

Systèmes de management environnemental —
Spécification et lignes directrices pour son
utilisation
(ISO 14001:1996)

Umweltmanagementsysteme —
Spezifikation mit Anleitung zur Anwendung
(ISO 14001:1996)

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CEN

European Committee for Standardization
Comité Européen de Normalisation
Europäisches Komitee für Normung

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Foreword

The text of the International Standard ISO 14001:1996 has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 207, Environmental management, in collaboration with CEN/CS.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by March 1997, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by March 1997.

According to the CEN/CENELEC Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

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Introduction

Organizations of all kinds are increasingly concerned to achieve and demonstrate sound environmental performance by controlling the impact of their activities, products or services on the environment, taking into account their environmental policy and objectives. They do so in the context of increasingly stringent legislation, the development of economic policies and other measures to foster environmental protection, and a general growth of concern from interested parties about environmental matters including sustainable development.

Many organizations have undertaken environmental “reviews” or “audits” to assess their environmental performance. On their own, however, these “reviews” and “audits” may not be sufficient to provide an organization with the assurance that its performance not only meets, but will continue to meet, its legal and policy requirements. To be effective, they need to be conducted within a structured management system and integrated with overall management activity.

International Standards covering environmental management are intended to provide organizations with the elements of an effective environmental management system which can be integrated with other management requirements, to assist organizations to achieve environmental and economic goals. These Standards, like other International Standards, are not intended to be used to create non-tariff trade barriers or to increase or change an organization’s legal obligations.

This International Standard specifies the requirements of such an environmental management system. It has been written to be applicable to all types and sizes of organizations and to accommodate diverse geographical, cultural and social conditions. The basis of the approach is shown in Figure 1. The success of the system depends on commitment from all levels and functions, especially from top management. A system of this kind enables an organization to establish, and assess the effectiveness of, procedures to set an environmental policy and objectives, achieve conformance with them, and demonstrate such conformance to others. The overall aim of this International Standard is to support environmental protection and prevention of pollution in balance with socio-economic needs. It should be noted that many of the requirements may be addressed concurrently or revisited at any time.

There is an important distinction between this specification which describes the requirements for certification/registration and/or self-declaration of an organization’s environmental management system and a non-certifiable guideline intended to provide generic assistance to an organization for implementing or improving an environmental management system. Environmental management encompasses a full range of issues including those with strategic and competitive implications. Demonstration of successful implementation of this International Standard can be used by an organization to assure interested parties that an appropriate environmental management system is in place.

Guidance on supporting environmental management techniques will be contained in other International Standards.

This International Standard contains only those requirements that may be objectively audited for certification/registration purposes and/or self-declaration purposes. Those organizations requiring more general guidance on a broad range of environmental management system issues should refer to ISO 14004:1996, *Environmental management systems — General guidelines on principles, systems and supporting techniques*.

It should be noted that this International Standard does not establish absolute requirements for environmental performance beyond commitment, in the policy, to compliance with applicable legislation and regulations and to continual improvement. Thus, two organizations carrying out similar activities but having different environmental performance may both comply with its requirements.

The adoption and implementation of a range of environmental management techniques in a systematic manner can contribute to optimal outcomes for all interested parties. However, adoption of this International Standard will not in itself guarantee optimal environmental outcomes. In order to achieve environmental objectives, the environmental management system should encourage organizations to consider implementation of the best available technology, where appropriate and where economically viable. In addition, the cost effectiveness of such technology should be fully taken into account.