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**Environmental management —
Environmental assessment of sites
and organizations (EASO)**

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Reference number : **JIS Q 14015 : 2002 (E)**

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Foreword

This translation has been made based on the original Japanese Industrial Standard established by the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry through deliberations at the Japanese Industrial Standards Committee in accordance with the Industrial Standardization Law:

This Standard has been prepared based on **ISO 14015 : 2001** *Environmental management — Environmental assessment of sites and organizations (EASO)*.

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In the event of any doubts arising as to the contents,
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Environmental management — Environmental assessment of sites and organizations (EASO)

Introduction This Japanese Industrial Standard has been prepared based on ISO 14015, *Environmental management — Environmental assessment of sites and organizations* (EASO) published in 2001 without modifying the technical contents.

The portions underlined with dots are the matters not stated in the original International Standard.

Organizations are increasingly interested in understanding the environmental issues associated with their sites and activities or those of potential acquisitions. These issues and their associated business consequences can be appraised by means of an Environmental Assessment of the Site and Organization (EASO). Such an assessment may be carried out during operations or at the time of acquisition or divestiture of assets and may be conducted as part of a broader business assessment process often referred to as “due diligence”.

This Standard gives guidance on how to conduct an EASO. It provides the basis for harmonization of the terminology used and for a structured, consistent, transparent and objective approach to conducting such environmental assessments. It can be used by all organizations, including small- and medium-sized enterprises, operating anywhere in the world. This Standard is flexible in its application and may be used for self-assessments as well as external assessments, with or without the need to employ third parties. The users of this Standard are expected to be industry, past, present and possible future users of particular sites, and organizations with a financial interest in the industry or site (e.g. banks, insurance companies, investors and site owners). This Standard is likely to be used in connection with the transfer of responsibilities and obligations.

The information used during an EASO may be derived from sources that include environmental management system audits, regulatory compliance audits, environmental impact assessments, environmental performance evaluations or site investigations. Some of these assessments or investigations may have been conducted using other relevant standards (e.g. JIS Q 14001, JIS Q 14011 or JIS Q 14031).

Through the process of evaluating both existing and newly acquired information, an EASO seeks to draw conclusions relating to business consequences associated with environmental aspects and issues.

Conclusions in an EASO should be based on objective information. In the absence of validated information, an EASO assessor may be required to exercise professional judgement in evaluating the available environmental information and drawing conclusions.

This Standard does not provide guidance on intrusive investigations or site reme-

diation. However, if requested by the client, these may be undertaken in accordance with other standards or procedures.

1 Scope This Standard provides guidance on how to conduct an EASO through a systematic process of identifying environmental aspects and environmental issues and determining, if appropriate, their business consequences.

This Standard covers the roles and responsibilities of the parties to the assessment (the client, the assessor and the representative of the assessee), and the stages of the assessment process (planning, information gathering and validation, evaluation and reporting). The process for conducting an EASO is shown in Figure 1.

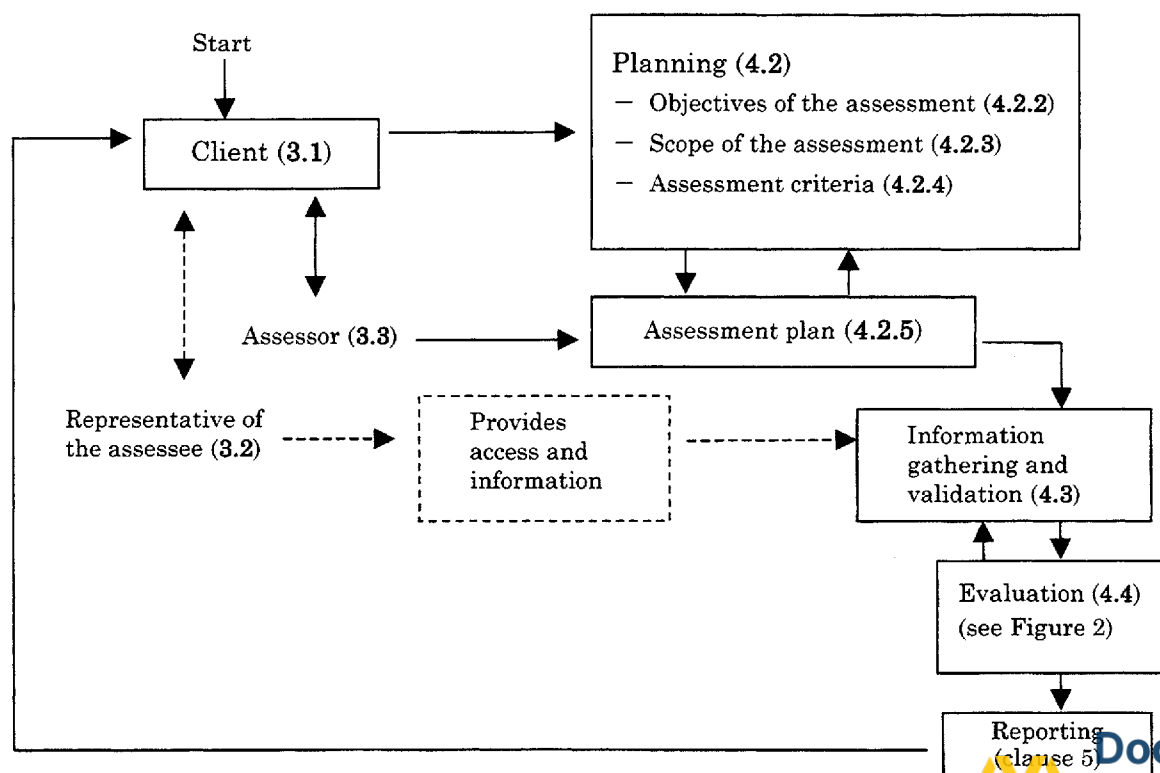
This Standard does not provide guidance on how to conduct other types of environmental assessment, such as:

- a) initial environmental reviews;
- b) environmental audits (including environmental management system and regulatory compliance audits);
- c) environmental impact assessments; or
- d) environmental performance evaluations.

Intrusive investigations and site remediation, as well as the decision to proceed with them, are outside the scope of this Standard.

This Standard is not intended for use as a specification standard for certification or registration purposes or for the establishment of environmental management system requirements.

Use of this Standard does not imply that other standards and legislation are imposed on the client or the assessee.



Note : The numbers between brackets refer to (sub)clauses in this Standard. The dashed lines indicate that the assessee is not necessarily involved in an EASO as described in this Standard (see note to 3.2)

Figure 1 Process for conducting an Environmental Assessment of Sites and Organizations

Remarks The International Standard corresponding to this Standard is as follows.
In addition, symbols which denote the degree of correspondence in the contents between the relevant International Standard and JIS are IDT (identical), MOD (modified), and NEQ (not equivalent) according to ISO/IEC Guide 21.
 ISO 14015 : 2001 *Environmental management – Environmental assessment of sites and organizations (EASO) (IDT)*

2 Terms and definitions For the purposes of this Standard the following terms and definitions apply.

2.1 assessee site or organization being assessed

2.2 assessor person, possessing sufficient competence, designated to conduct or participate in a given assessment

Note : An assessor may be internal or external to the organization subject to the assessment. More than one assessor may be required to ensure adequate coverage of all relevant matters, for example when there is a need for specific expertise.

2.3 business consequence actual or potential impact (financial or other; positive or negative; qualitative or quantitative) of the identified and evaluated environmental issues

2.4 client organization commissioning the assessment

Examples The site owner, the assessee, or any other party.

2.5 environment surroundings in which an organization operates, including air, water, land, natural resources, flora, fauna, humans, and their interrelation

Note : Surroundings in this context extend from within an organization to the global system.

[JIS Q 14001 : 1996]

2.6 environmental aspect element of an organization's activities, products or services that can interact with the environment

Note : An environmental aspect can relate to past, present and future activities, products and services.

2.7 environmental assessment of sites and organizations, EASO process to identify objectively the environmental aspects, to identify the environmental issues and to determine the business consequences of sites and organizations as a result of past, current and expected future activities

Note : The determination of business consequences is optional, at the discretion of the client.

2.8 environmental impact any change to the environment, whether adverse or beneficial, wholly or partially resulting from an organization's activities, products or services [JIS Q 14001 : 1996]

2.9 environmental issue issue for which validated information on environmental aspects deviates from selected criteria and may result in liabilities or benefits, effects on the assessee's or the client's public image, or other costs

2.10 environmental management system that part of the overall management system that includes organizational structure, planning activities, responsibilities, practices, procedures, processes and resources for developing, implementing, achieving, reviewing and maintaining the environmental policy [JIS Q 14001 : 1996]

2.11 intrusive investigation sampling and testing using instruments and/or requiring physical interference

2.12 organization company, corporation, firm, enterprise, authority or institution, or part or combination thereof, whether incorporated or not, public or private, that has its own functions and administration

Note : In organizations with more than one operative unit, each operative unit can be defined as an organization.

2.13 representative of the assessee person authorized to represent the assessee

2.14 site location with defined geographical boundaries and on which activities under the control of an organization may be carried out

Note : The geographical boundaries may be on land and in water, and include above- and below-surface structures, both natural and man-made.

2.15 validation process whereby the assessor determines that the information gathered is accurate, reliable, sufficient and appropriate to meet the objectives of the assessment

3 Roles and responsibilities

3.1 Client Client responsibilities and activities should include