

## **What is ISO 14001?**

ISO 14001 is an internationally agreed standard that sets out the requirements for an environmental management system. It helps organizations improve their environmental performance through more efficient use of resources and reduction of waste, gaining a competitive advantage and the trust of stakeholders.

### **What benefits will it bring to my business or organization?**

There are many reasons why an organization should take a strategic approach to improving its environmental performance. Users of the standard have reported that

ISO 14001 helps:

- Demonstrate compliance with current and future statutory and regulatory requirements
- Increase leadership involvement and engagement of employees
- Improve company reputation and the confidence of stakeholders through better communication
- Achieve strategic business aims by incorporating environmental issues into business management
- Provide a competitive and financial advantage through improved efficiencies and reduced costs
- Encourage better environmental performance of suppliers by integrating them into the organization's business systems

### **17 Elements of ISO 14001**

1. An environmental policy supported by senior management;
2. The identification of environmental aspects and impacts, and the identification of significant environmental impacts that the organization may cause;
3. Identification of environmental compliance requirements;
4. The development of objectives and targets, and their environmental management programs;
5. Defined resources, roles, responsibilities and authorities for environmental management;
6. The development of competence, training and awareness procedures;
7. A communication process of the EMS to all stakeholders and interested parties;
8. The development of EMS documentation as required by the standard;
9. The development of document control procedures;
10. The development of operational control procedures;
11. The development of emergency preparedness and response procedures;
12. The development of procedures to monitor and measure operations that can have significant impact to the environment;

13. An evaluation of compliance procedure;
14. Procedures developed for the management of non-conformance, corrective and preventative actions;
15. The development of a records management procedure;
16. A program for completing internal EMS audits and corrective actions; and
17. The development of procedures for management review by senior management.