

The transition from ISO 14001:2004 to ISO 14001:2015



ISO 14001:2015 is due to be published in September 2015. The final transition arrangements are being confirmed by UKAS but clients currently registered to the 2004 version of the standard will have a 3-year period to make the transition from the date of issue of the new standard

The FAQ's below are designed to assist you in the process of transition.

When will I be able to obtain a new copy of the standard?

The final draft is due to be published in July 2015 and you can obtain a copy from the BSI - British Standards Institution or ISO - International Organization for Standardization.

What has changed in the new standard?

The main changes relate to

- A high level structure aligning your system to business strategies
- Emphasis on leadership, awareness and communication
- Having a system which is appropriate to internal and external issues which impact on the an organization's ability to meet requirements
- Maintain and enhance strong focus on processes and process management
- Focus on consideration of the risks to the business
- Alignment with the requirements of ISO 9001:2015

Are there likely to be changes between the final draft and the standard due to be published in September 2015?

This is possible but it is unlikely that there will be any significant changes between the DIS and final publication.

When should we start making the transition?

You can start now. Get hold of a copy of the final draft of ISO/DIS 14001 and review the changes. Whilst there may be some change between this and the standard to be published in September, it is unlikely that any such changes will affect the implementation of the new standard.

Remember that your system must still comply with ISO 14001:2004 until the new standard is published.

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How long will ISO 14001:2004 continue to be recognized?

It is anticipated that the current standard will be recognized and can be audited until the end of the 3-year transition period, subject to confirmation by UKAS.

We would expect that our clients will make the transition successfully within this period. After that, ISO 14001:2004 certificates will no longer be valid.

We are implementing ISO 14001:2004 now, how will we be affected?

Carry on with your implementation since you will have three years from the publication of the new standard to make the transition. However, Ocean recommends that you consider the requirements of the new standard to make the transition easier.

Will the changeover cost us money?

Ocean Certification is expecting the transition to be managed through your normal surveillance or re-assessment visits and as such we do not believe there will be extra cost.

However, if you require certification to the new standard at an earlier date, then Ocean will discuss the likely costs, the steps involved and provide you with a new quotation for your 3-year certification cycle.

We have an integrated management system including standards such as ISO 9001 and BS OHSAS 18001. How will that affect the transition?

It is planned that ISO 14001 and ISO 9001 will be fully aligned with common numbering being applied across the clauses (for example the clause relating to policies will be the same in both standards). BS OHSAS 18001 is also due to be replaced by a new international standard and will also be fully aligned. This should make it easier to develop and maintain fully integrated management systems.

If we have any questions, who should we ask?

Contact the Ocean Head Office on 0191 222 0306 or discuss the transition with your auditor when they visit next.

Ocean Certification can offer a Gap Analysis service to clients wishing to review how prepared their system will be meet the requirements of the new standard. Please call 0191 222 0306 for more information about this service.