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Australian/New Zealand Standard™

Environmental management systems—Requirements with guidance for use

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STANDARDS NEW ZEALAND
Paerewa Aotearoa

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee QR-011, Environmental Management Systems. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 19 November 2004 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 26 November 2004.
This Standard was published on 10 December 2004.

The following are represented on Committee QR-011:

Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy
Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Australian Environment Business Network
Australian and New Zealand Clinical Waste Management Industry Group
Business New Zealand
Certification Interests (Australia)
Consumers' Federation of Australia
Corporate Environmental Managers Group
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This Standard was issued in draft form for comment asDR 03183 and DR 03542.

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Australian/New Zealand Standard™

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Originated as AS/NZS ISO 14001 (Int):1995.
Previous edition 1996.
Third edition 2004.

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Jointly published by Standards Australia, GPO Box 5420, Sydney, NSW 2001 and Standards New Zealand, Private Bag 2439, Wellington 6020

ISBN 0 7337 6406 1

PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee QR-011, Environmental Management Systems and supersedes AS/NZS ISO 14001:1996.

The objective of this Standard is to specify requirements for an environmental management system (EMS) to enable an organization to develop and implement a policy and objectives which take into account legal requirements and other requirements to which the organization subscribes, and information about significant environmental aspects. It applies to those environmental aspects that the organization identifies as those which it can control and those which it can influence. It does not itself state specific environmental performance criteria.

It is identical with, and has been reproduced from, ISO 14001:2004, *Environmental management systems—Requirements with guidance for use*.

Changes to this edition of the Standard include:

(a) More emphasis on compliance, though there is no tightening of requirements.

(b) The requirement that an organization needs to define and document the scope of its environmental management system.

(c) A greater level of harmonization with ISO 9001, though this is not complete and will continue with the next edition.

The term 'informative' is used to define the application of the annex to which it applies. An informative annex is only for information and guidance.

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INTRODUCTION

Organizations of all kinds are increasingly concerned with achieving and demonstrating sound environmental performance by controlling the impacts of their activities, products and services on the environment, consistent with their environmental policy and objectives. They do so in the context of increasingly stringent legislation, the development of economic policies and other measures that foster environmental protection, and increased concern expressed by interested parties about environmental matters and 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 that is integrated within the organization.

International Standards covering environmental management are intended to provide organizations with the elements of an effective environmental management system (EMS) that can be integrated with other management requirements and help organizations 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 requirements for an environmental management system to enable an organization to develop and implement a policy and objectives which take into account legal requirements and information about significant environmental aspects. It is intended to apply to all types and sizes of organization 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 of the organization, and especially from top management. A system of this kind enables an organization to develop an environmental policy, establish objectives and processes to achieve the policy commitments, take action as needed to improve its performance and demonstrate the conformity of the system to the requirements of this International Standard. 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 can be addressed concurrently or revisited at any time.

The second edition of this International Standard is focused on clarification of the first edition, and has taken due consideration of the provisions of ISO 9001 to enhance the compatibility of the two standards for the benefit of the user community.

For ease of use, the subclause numbers in Clause 4 of the body of this International Standard and in Annex A have been related. For example, 4.3.3 and A.3.3 both deal with objectives, targets and programme(s), and 4.5.5 and A.5.5 both deal with internal audit. In addition, Annex B identifies broad technical correspondences between ISO 14001:2004 and ISO 9001:2000 and *vice versa*.

There is an important distinction between this International Standard, which describes the requirements for an organization's environmental management system and can be used 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 establishing, 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 is contained in other International Standards, particularly those on environmental management in the documents established by ISO/TC 207. Any reference to other International Standards is for information only.

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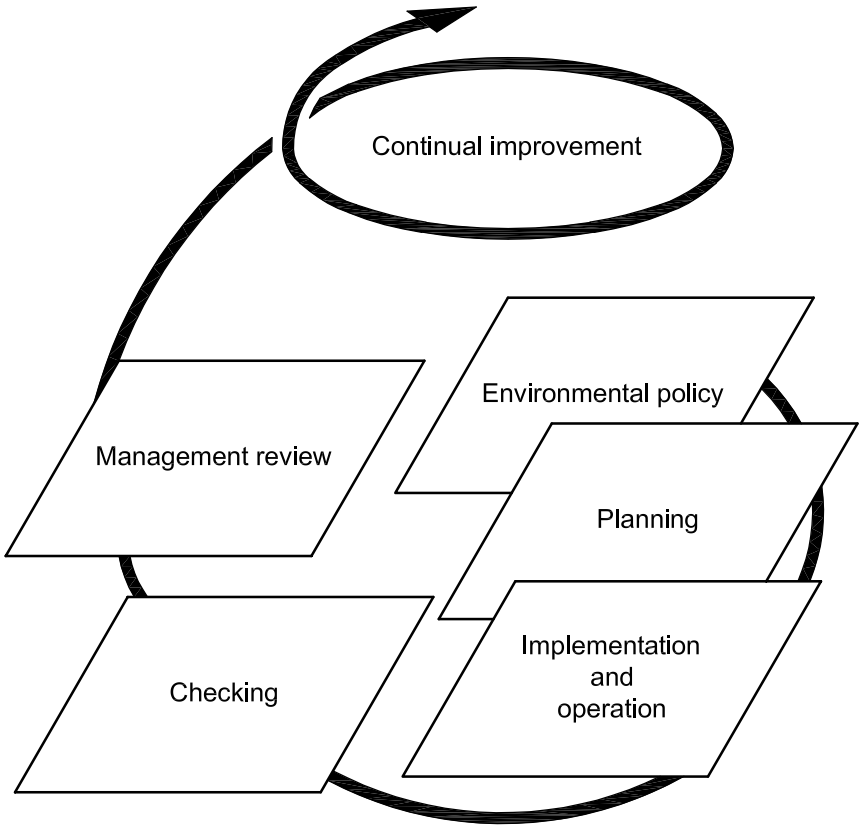

NOTE This International Standard is based on the methodology known as Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA). PDCA can be briefly described as follows.

— Plan: establish the objectives and processes necessary to deliver results in accordance with the organization's environmental policy.

— Do: implement the processes.

— Check: monitor and measure processes against environmental policy, objectives, targets, legal and other requirements, and report the results.

— Act: take actions to continually improve performance of the environmental management system.

Many organizations manage their operations via the application of a system of processes and their interactions, which can be referred to as the “process approach”. ISO 9001 promotes the use of the process approach. Since PDCA can be applied to all processes, the two methodologies are considered to be compatible.

Figure 1 — Environmental management system model for this International Standard

This International Standard contains only those requirements that can be objectively audited. Those organizations requiring more general guidance on a broad range of environmental management system issues are referred to ISO 14004.

This International Standard does not establish absolute requirements for environmental performance beyond the commitments, in the environmental policy, to comply with applicable legal requirements and with other requirements to which the organization subscribes, to prevention of pollution and to continual improvement. Thus, two organizations carrying out similar operations but having different environmental performance can both conform to 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 can encourage organizations to consider implementation of the best

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available techniques, where appropriate and where economically viable, and fully take into account the cost-effectiveness of such techniques.

This International Standard does not include requirements specific to other management systems, such as those for quality, occupational health and safety, financial or risk management, though its elements can be aligned or integrated with those of other management systems. It is possible for an organization to adapt its existing management system(s) in order to establish an environmental management system that conforms to the requirements of this International Standard. It is pointed out, however, that the application of various elements of the management system might differ depending on the intended purpose and the interested parties involved.

The level of detail and complexity of the environmental management system, the extent of documentation and the resources devoted to it depend on a number of factors, such as the scope of the system, the size of an organization and the nature of its activities, products and services. This may be the case in particular for small and medium-sized enterprises.

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AUSTRALIAN/NEW ZEALAND STANDARD

Environmental management systems — Requirements with guidance for use

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies requirements for an environmental management system to enable an organization to develop and implement a policy and objectives which take into account legal requirements and other requirements to which the organization subscribes, and information about significant environmental aspects. It applies to those environmental aspects that the organization identifies as those which it can control and those which it can influence. It does not itself state specific environmental performance criteria.

This International Standard is applicable to any organization that wishes to

a) establish, implement, maintain and improve an environmental management system,

b) assure itself of conformity with its stated environmental policy,

c) demonstrate conformity with this International Standard by

   1) making a self-determination and self-declaration, or

   2) seeking confirmation of its conformance by parties having an interest in the organization, such as customers, or

   3) seeking confirmation of its self-declaration by a party external to the organization, or

   4) seeking certification/registration of its environmental management system by an external organization.

All the requirements in this International Standard are intended to be incorporated into any environmental management system. The extent of the application depends on factors such as the environmental policy of the organization, the nature of its activities, products and services and the location where and the conditions in which it functions. This International Standard also provides, in Annex A, informative guidance on its use.

2 Normative references

No normative references are cited. This clause is included in order to retain clause numbering identical with the previous edition (ISO 14001:1996).

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1
auditor
person with the competence to conduct an audit

[ISO 9000:2000, 3.9.9]

3.2
continual improvement
recurring process of enhancing the **environmental management system** (3.8) in order to achieve improvements in overall **environmental performance** (3.10) consistent with the **organization's** (3.16) **environmental policy** (3.11)

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