



Transition Requirements for ISO 14001:2026

NF50

The transition to ISO 14001:2026 (published April 2026) updates the environmental management system (EMS) standard emphasis on climate change, biodiversity, and improved supply chain oversight.

Climate & Sustainability Focus: Integrate climate change risks and biodiversity considerations into the EMS.

Supply Chain Oversight: Strengthen supplier controls to ensure compliance.

Updated version reflects growing global priorities such as climate resilience, biodiversity and sustainable resource use. It also aims to clarify and strengthen existing requirements.

Compared to the previous version, some significant changes to ISO 14001:2026 include:

- Focus on environmental performance, outcomes, and environmental risks
- New clause on risk and opportunities (6.1.4), which ties into clauses 4.1 and 4.2
- Consideration of environmental aspects in 6.1.2, including consideration of emergency situations
- New clause on planning for changes (6.3)
- Clause 8.1 now defines externally provided processes or services, supply chain controls, and procurement considerations.

There are minor changes to:

- Clause 9.1.1, which requires an analysis of performance
- Clause 9.3, which has been amended to define the requirements of the management review inputs and results
- Clause 10.1, which requires consideration of continual improvement

Key Steps for Transition to ISO 14001:2026

- **Gap Analysis:** Evaluate current EMS against the new 2026 requirements. All changes to be clearly identified with all specific actions to be taken to implement the changes;
- **Update Documentation/Revised checklists:** Reflect updated clauses and language in EMS procedures.
- **Training and competence:** Details of training and assessment of competence of certification body personnel;
- **Communication:** Details of communication with clients and impact on audit time;
- **Timeframes:** The timeframe and persons responsible for completion of such actions.

Key Timescale

Publication of ISO 14001:2026; April 2026
AB transition of all CABs within 12 months; April 2027
CAB shall use ISO14001:2026 post award of accreditation
CAB to use ISO/IEC 14001:2026 for all clients no later than April 2029

Further information

For further information, please contact your INAB assessment manager.