

Revision of ISO 14001 – Environmental management standard

Expected Publication: March 2026

There is a new version of ISO 14001 expected in March 2026. Currently the ISO/FDIS 14001 (the Final Draft International Standard) is in the approval phase.



The revision of ISO 14001 is happening in response to an increased emphasis on factors such as climate change, biodiversity loss and ESG expectations. Organisations of every size and sector now face pressure to disclose environmental performance and integrate sustainability into governance frameworks.

Some of the key features and updates of the new version:

- Focus on current environmental/sustainability issues; it includes a stronger focus on modern environmental priorities such as climate change, biodiversity, and resource efficiency.
- Increased leadership accountability; it strengthens the role of top management, requiring them to show greater personal involvement in the EMS.
- Modernised structure; clauses have been re-ordered for better clarity and re-usability
- New clause on change management
- Requirements for externally provided products, services and processes have been expanded
- Greater clarity on internal audit programme, its objectives and inputs required for management review
- Requirements for improvement and continual improvement have been merged

The NSAI will publish a transition policy for clients certified to ISO 14001:2015 in 2026.