

ISO 14001

Environmental Issues - An Introduction

The demand from suppliers, customers and the public is changing with respect to environmental protection. Organisations of all types and sizes need to be aware of the potential and actual impact the activities of their organisation is having on the environment.

In a world of ever increasing environmental law, you need to be able to identify those applicable legal requirements and any future law that may be relevant so you can avoid regulatory action.

Pressure to minimise environmental impact is coming from a number of sources namely, Government, Trade Associations, supply chain, social and financial. One way of addressing these issues is to have an Environmental Management System.

What is ISO 14001?

ISO 14001 is the most widely recognised environmental quality standard in the world. It provides an Environmental Management System (EMS) that will communicate credibility and confidence, thus sending a strong message to your stakeholders that you operate your business in an environmentally responsible manner.

The EMS provides a management framework for managing environmental responsibilities so that they become more efficient and more integrated into overall operations. This framework allows an organisation to understand, describe and control its significant impacts on the environment, ensure compliance with environmental legislation and continually improve its business operations.

Who is it relevant to?

ISO 14001 may be adopted by any type of business, large or small to deliver cost savings through reducing waste and improving efficiency.

What are the benefits?

In addition to reducing environmental impact, other benefits include:-

Financial

- Many companies find real financial benefits through cost savings by reduction of waste and more efficient use of natural resources (electricity, fuels, water).
- Avoid possible future fines and penalties from not meeting environmental legislation by identifying environmental risks.
- A number of insurance brokers are now offering companies reduced insurance by demonstrating better risk management.

Marketing

- ISO 14001 certification can be used as an effective sales and marketing tool, giving companies the competitive edge.
- Demonstrate to stakeholders a commitment to the environment and potentially have their efforts acknowledged i.e. environmental awards.
- Lead to better sales opportunities, in some cases ISO 14001 is a pre-requisite to tender for new business.

What are the benefits? (cont'd)

Operational

- Improve overall performance and efficiency.
- Clear policies and processes will remove uncertainty.
- Help clarify staff responsibility and as a result improve internal communication and morale.
- Encourages environmental solutions being suggested by employees, who are the ultimate owners of the business processes.

Image

- Demonstrate an innovative and forward thinking approach to environmental issues will lead to a better public perception of a company.
- Publicising your company's EMS will not only raise its profile but also lead to better community awareness of environmental activities.
- Demonstrate commitment to the environment and provide confidence and credibility to your customers, trade partners, stakeholders, regulators and local authority.

Why Blackmores?

- **Blackmores** is a unique management consultancy which specialises in implementing and maintaining management systems compliant to international (ISO) and British (BS) standards. We make the transition to successful accreditation painless, cost effective and timely allowing you time to focus on what you do best – running your business.
- **Blackmores** will help you to successfully achieve ISO 14001 certification and as a result you will see significant reductions in environmental impacts, costs and energy usage. This will provide more opportunities to become a 'preferred supplier', giving you the edge over your competitors. Through EMS certification, commercial gain as well as environmental benefits can be realised.
- **Blackmores** also provide a unique 'Q-Care' service which provides you with a dedicated Environmental Manager to maintain your Environmental system.

Do you already have ISO 9001?

If you already have ISO 9001 you are half way there to attaining ISO 14001.

The fundamental procedures within ISO 9001 are mirrored in ISO 14001; therefore **Blackmores** can help you to seamlessly integrate the two standards into an integrated management system.