

	INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATION AUTHORITY	Format No.	ICA-D-18
		Rev. No.	00
	EMS Transition Program	Date	15.06.2026

EMS Transition Audit Plan {ISO 14001:2026 Transition}

ISO 14001:2026: ISO 14001:2026 introduces a series of updates and clarifications intended to strengthen consistency and clarify existing expectations within environmental management systems. Areas receiving greater emphasis include climate change, biodiversity, environmental conditions, externally provided processes and services, management of change, and documented internal audit activities. The revised standard maintains the existing High-Level Structure; the meaning the overall clause structure remains familiar to organisations already certified to ISO 14001:2015.

Changes in EMS 14001:2026: The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) published ISO 14001:2026 on 15 April 2026.

The new version replaces the 2015-edition of the standard, including the climate change amendment published in 2024.

What has changed?

One main frame condition decided for the update has been to clarify existing requirements associated with key topics, but to limit the introduction of new requirements. Another aim has been to align the text with the latest contents of ISO's Harmonized Structure for management system standards.

Description of Key Changes:

Main proposed changes include, but are not limited to:

Climate change amendments (Clause 4.1 and 4.2):

The climate change amendment introduced in 2024 (ref. ISO 14001:2015/Amd1:2024) is now included in the standard. However, in addition to climate change, other environmental conditions are also added for the analysis of the organizational context, such as the use of natural resources, pollution levels, and biological diversity. These amendments maintain the holistic environmental focus.

Actions to address risks and opportunities (Clause 6.1):

The text has been restructured with the aim to clarify existing requirements: Most of the text in 6.1.1 'General' has been moved to a new clause 6.1.4 'Risks and opportunities', and 'Planning actions' is updated and renumbered to 6.1.5.

Environmental aspects (Clause 6.1.2):

A new note is included to explain and strengthen the concept of lifecycle perspective in the environmental aspect process.

Planning of changes (New clause 6.3):

New clause added to ensure a structured approach for the management of changes that are relevant to the EMS.

Operational planning and control (Clause 8.1):

The focus is extended from the control of "outsourced processes" to control of "externally provided processes, products and services".

	INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATION AUTHORITY	Format No.	ICA-D-18
		Rev. No.	00
	EMS Transition Program	Date	15.06.2026

Improvement (Clause 10):

Consolidation of clauses and renumbering. The content is quite similar.

The guidance in Annex A has been substantially revised and improved for various clauses to support interpretation of the requirements in clause 4-10.

In addition, there are several textual changes to align with the Harmonized Structure.

The overall changes are quite moderate and are less extensive than the changes for transitioning to the 2015-edition.

1.0 Timeline for the Transition:

Milestone	Date
ISO 14001:2026 published	April 2026
Transition audits available	From 1st June 2026
Recertification audits begin incorporating transition activities ISO 14001:2015 recertification no longer available	From 1st October 2027 After 31st October 2027
Transition deadline	30th April 2029
Remaining ISO 14001:2015 certificates expire	30th April 2029

1.1 ICA will begin the transition of the certificates on 01.01.2027 and will start accepting the New Application of ISO 14001:2026 from 01.01.2027 onwards.

1.2 After 30 April 2028 No application of ISO 14001:2026 will be accepted.

2.0 In case the Client fails to complete the transition on or before 30th April 2029 then the Full Certification Audit Process will be performed by the ICA & the Certificate of ISO 14001:2015 will no longer be valid.

3.0 Description of Transition Audit:

Organisations transitioning from ISO 14001:2015 to ISO 14001:2026 are expected to review the updated requirements and identify any areas requiring update within their environmental management system prior to the transition audit.

As part of the transition process, organisations will be expected to demonstrate:

- Review of the updated ISO 14001:2026 requirements
- Completion of a documented transition review against the updated requirements
- Consideration of updated requirements within internal audit activities
- Management review covering transition-related changes
- Availability of relevant documented information during audit

Transition activities may be completed during a scheduled surveillance audit, recertification audit, or a separate transition audit.

Working toward certification?

Organisations planning to achieve ISO 14001:2015 certification should remain aware of transition requirements and certification timelines during the transition period.

	INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATION AUTHORITY	Format No.	ICA-D-18
		Rev. No.	00
	EMS Transition Program	Date	15.06.2026

How we can support

Once you start preparing to transition to the new version of ISO 14001, ICA can support your journey.

We will be able to support you with:

- Webinars to provide an overview of the main changes and the transition process.
- Training where you learn more about the revisions and changes, and how to tackle key areas to continually improve and build a high-performing management system.
- Transition audit to move your certification in line with the new version of the standard.

5.0 Extra time needed for the transition

a} Minimum of 0.5 auditor day for the transition audit when it is carried out in conjunction with a recertification audit.

b} Minimum of 1.0 auditor day for the transition audit when it is carried out in conjunction with a surveillance audit or as a separate audit.

Date: 20.06.2026



Approved By: Mr. Soloman {CEO}