3.8.26

205/2026

Update regarding the ISO 14001:2026 Standard Version

Dear Customers,

On April 30, 2026, the ISO 14001:2026 version was officially launched—the leading standard for environmental management in organizations.

The gaps between the previous version (2015) and the updated 2026 version are reflected in the revision of several clauses.

Below you will find the migration timeline for transitioning to the new version. A checklist to serve as a tool for evaluating your organization's readiness for the transition is available on our website in Hebrew.

Activity	Time line
Initial and recertification audits in accordance with ISO 14001:2015	18 months (31 Oct 2027) from the last day of the publication month of ISO14001:2026
Surveillance audits according to the old version of the standard ISO 14001:2015	Will only be possible until 4/30/2028
Certificate holders for ISO 14001:2015	Remain certified against the 'old' standard until **30 April 2029** at the latest
Beginning of transition audits to the new standard version 14001:2026	After IQC receives international accreditation for the new version by no later than 4/30/2027

Anyone who has any questions on the matter is welcome to contact me via email for clarifications at amitai@iqc.co.il

Key Changes:

Change summary: The revision places a greater focus on how external environmental factors, such as climate change, biodiversity, and resource availability, both affect the organization and are affected by its operations. This includes considering aspects like greenhouse gas emissions and climate action more explicitly within the EMS. This reflects the growing global imperative to address critical ecological issues.

- **Clause 4.1:** Environmental conditions (e.g., climate change, pollution, biodiversity) must now be explicitly considered as external issues.
- **Clause 4.2:** Stakeholder needs and expectations may now include expectations related to environmental conditions (e.g., climate change, pollution, biodiversity). Relevant interested parties can have requirements related to climate change.
- **Clause 4.3:** EMS scope must reflect a life cycle approach. The standard will shift from 'considering' to actively applying lifecycle perspectives in environmental planning.
- **Documentation:** Key documents must be available as documented information.

Needed Action: Update context analysis, stakeholder maps, and scope definition. Update your context analysis to include specific environmental conditions. Revisit your stakeholder analysis and evaluate new environmental expectations. Ensure your EMS scope takes a lifecycle perspective into account. Review how you make key EMS documents available to interested parties.

Clause 5 Leadership

Change summary: The revision places greater emphasis on top management's personal involvement and accountability in driving environmental performance. While tasks can be delegated, ultimate responsibility remains with leadership, designed to foster a stronger culture of environmental responsibility throughout all areas of business.

- **Clause 5.1:** Top management must support all relevant roles, not just management roles.
- **Updated terminology:** The term 'meet compliance obligations' replaces 'fulfil'.
- **Focus:** Greater emphasis on conserving natural resources and ecosystem protection.

Needed Action: Revise your environmental policy to reflect revised terminology and broader commitments and ensure executive engagement. Ensure top management understands the broader scope of leadership in the EMS. Ensure that the environmental policy is accessible to all stakeholders both internally and externally.

Clause 6 Planning

Change summary: The approach to identifying and addressing environmental risks and opportunities has been further improved, with clearer links between environmental aspects, compliance obligations, and planned actions. This aims to promote a more proactive and strategic approach to managing environmental performance. Change management has been done to ensure that positive environmental outcomes remain consistent, and no unintended environmental impacts slip through the cracks.

- **Clause 6.1.1:** Planning to address risk and opportunities will be split into: 6.1.4 (identify risks and opportunities) and 6.1.5 (plan actions accordingly).
- **Clause 6.1.2:** When evaluating environmental aspects and impacts, emergency situations must be separate from 'abnormal' operations (e.g., normal, abnormal, and emergency).
- **Clause 6.3:** This new clause requires a structured approach to EMS change management.

Needed Action: Review your planning documentation to reflect new clause references. Separate your planning processes into identification (6.1.4) and action (6.1.5), and refresh your risk register, aspect and impact register, and other planning documentation as needed. Introduce a structured change management approach as required by Clause 6.3. Update your aspect and impact analysis to include potential emergencies. Reassess the effectiveness of your objectives and KPIs in Clause 6.2.

Clause 7 Support

Change summary: The new version recognizes the growing role of digital solutions, such as AI and data analytics, in driving environmental performance. Organizations will be encouraged to use technology to monitor, manage, and report in real time, increasing efficiency and accountability.

- **Standardized terminology:** All EMS records must be 'available', instead of 'maintained' as documented information.
- **Clause 7.4:** Communication must empower employees to contribute to continual improvement.

Needed Action: Review communication and training processes, ensuring evidence is documented and accessible. Ensure that top management and all relevant personnel involved in the EMS are aware of the upcoming changes and their potential impact on their roles and responsibilities. Ensure EMS communications, both internal and external, are traceable and transparent. Adjust process descriptions to align with revised terminology.

Clause 8 Operation

Change summary: The revision now states that organizations must control or influence externally provided processes, products, or services that are relevant to their EMS, including those from suppliers. Evaluate upstream and downstream impacts and

encourage suppliers to adopt sustainable practices. The level of control must be clearly defined and documented. This encourages a fully rounded approach to sustainability within your supply chain.

- **Clause 8.1:** Outsourced processes are referred to as 'externally provided processes, products or services'. Operational control must extend to suppliers and partners.
- **Clause 8.2:** Emergency preparedness must align with risk planning (Clause 6.1.2).

Needed Action: Strengthen supplier management by identifying all externally provided processes and assessing existing control mechanisms. Review your supplier evaluation and environmental performance checks. Review your existing emergency response plans to ensure they reflect updated planning clauses. Ensure operational documentation is accessible and consistently maintained.

Clause 9 Performance evaluation

Change summary: The management review process has been reorganised into sub-clauses for '9.3.1 General', '9.3.2 Inputs', and '9.3.3 Results' to provide clearer audit trails and help you demonstrate that you are driving real improvements.

- **Clause 9.1.1:** Explicit requirement to evaluate environmental performance and EMS effectiveness.
- **Clause 9.2.2:** Internal audits must define objectives, in addition to the scope and criteria.
- **Clause 9.3:** Management reviews are restructured into three sub-clauses: inputs, process, and results.

Needed Action: Update internal audit and management review processes. Update your internal audit protocols to include defined objectives. Ensure performance evaluation includes EMS effectiveness, not just data points. Revise your management review process to follow the new substructure of Clause 9.3.

Clause 10 Improvement

Change summary: The ongoing commitment to continual improvement and the obligation to improve the EMS remains a core principle of the environmental standard.

- **Clause Integration:** Clause 10.3 was removed, and its content is now integrated into Clauses 10.1 and 10.2.
- **Nonconformity & Corrective Action:** More structured approach to nonconformity and corrective action.
- **Linkage:** Clear linkage between Clause 9 findings and continual improvement.

Needed Action: Strengthen root-cause analysis and improvement tracking. Update your internal audit protocols to include defined objectives. Ensure performance evaluation includes EMS effectiveness, not just data points.