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FAQs – ISO 14001 certification for environmental management systems

Our experts have answered some frequently asked questions about the new ISO 14001:2015 standard. Feel free to **contact us** directly if your question isn't answered here!

1. WHAT ARE THE PREREQUISITES FOR AN ISO 14001 CERTIFICATION?

Any company or organization can get certified under ISO 14001 regardless of their size, industry or organizational structure. Nevertheless, several prerequisites must first be met in order to qualify for an ISO 14001 certification:

- You commit your organization to introduce, document, realize and maintain an environmental management system that meets all the requirements of the [DIN EN ISO 14001](#) standard.
- In order to certify your environmental management system, you must first establish, test and document such a system within your organization.

2. WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF ISO 14001?

ISO 14001 governs environmental protection rules designed to avoid ecological stresses in accordance with socio-economic demands. As an established environmental norm, ISO 14001 is the world's foremost instrument for the implementation and application of an effective environmental management system.

3. WHAT DOES THE COMBINATION OF ISO 14001 AND ISO 50001 STANDARDS MEAN FOR MY ORGANIZATION?

- Improved efficiency
- Time and cost savings
- Harmonization
- Better cooperation among responsible departments and positions
- Higher acceptance and motivation among employees
- Unified rules and regulations
- Identifying and optimizing interfaces to avoid duplicate tasks

4. HOW ARE ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS IDENTIFIED AND ASSESSED?

The process of identifying environmental aspects and determining significant ecological impacts can be summarized in four steps:

1. Select activities, production processes, and services.
2. Identify environmental aspects that can be directly or indirectly monitored. For example, this would include any goods and services in use by the organization.
3. A product and service-related determination of environmental impacts, and creation of a register.
4. Assessment of environmental impacts (relevance).

5. WHAT DOES THE TERM "LEGAL COMPLIANCE" MEAN IN THE CONTEXT OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW?

As the name suggests, legal compliance describes the requirement for adhering to environmental regulations and legal statutes around the world.

6. WHAT ARE THE ARGUMENTS FOR CERTIFYING OUR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM UNDER ISO 14001?

Given the imminent publication of a major revision to the DIN EN ISO 14001 standard, the German Federal Environment Ministry (BMU) has joined with the Federal Environment Agency (UBA) to commission a study on the experiences of German businesses with ISO 14001. The results of this research have been compiled in an experiential report on ISO 14001, which is available as a free download.

This experience report reveals the main reasons for German companies to introduce an ISO 14001-certified environmental management system. According to the survey, the following ten motives rank the highest on their list:

1. Image (18%)
2. Customer requirements (16%)
3. Company philosophy (11%)
4. Continuous improvement process (9%)
5. Legal certainty (7%)
6. Internationality (7%)
7. Integrated management (6%)
8. Cost savings (5%)
9. Confirmation (4%)
10. EMAS-related (3%)

OUR EXPERTS ARE AT YOUR SERVICE – FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US IF YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS!

ONLINE CONTACT