

ISO 14001:2026 Readiness Checklist

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Welcome to our checklist

This checklist aims to help you understand what ISO 14001:2026 requires in simple terms and where your business activities may already comply. Working through the checklist will provide you with valuable insights and guidance on your next steps.

To note, the checklist cannot count as evidence for your transition audit, as our auditors must confirm compliance during your transition audit.

How does it work?

This checklist breaks each new requirement down by clause. In each section, you will be asked whether you have fulfilled key elements of the new criteria. You can mark your response as:

- **Ready** – indicating that you feel ready to demonstrate the aspect and should transition during your next visit from SGS
- **Nearly ready** – indicating that, with guidance or support, you would be able to demonstrate the aspect. We would recommend transitioning during your next SGS visit
- **Work to do** – indicating that further preparation is needed for your audit or, perhaps, even training from [SGS Academy](#).

The relevant next steps are at the end of the checklist, where you should have a better idea of how close you are to transitioning to the new standard.

Clause 4 Context of the organization

Have you determined:	Ready	Nearly ready	Work to do
4.1 Understanding the organization and its context			
Are there environmental conditions being affected by the organization or capable of affecting the organization, such as pollution levels, availability of natural resources, climate change, biodiversity or ecosystem health?			
4.2 Understanding the needs and expectations of interested parties			
Which compliance obligations will be addressed through the environmental management system?			
The relevant interested parties that have needs and expectations related to environmental conditions, such as pollution levels, availability of natural resources, climate change, biodiversity or ecosystem health? The relevant needs and expectations of the interested parties, other than legal requirements, as they become a compliance obligation when the organization decides to comply with them?			
4.3 Determining the scope of the environmental management system			
The organization's authority and ability to exercise control and influence over the life cycle of its activities, products and services? That the scope shall be available as documented information and for interested parties?			

Clause 5 Leadership

Have you determined:	Ready	Nearly ready	Work to do
5.1 Leadership and commitment			
Awareness of the interpretation of “business” as per the note below? c) Ensuring the integration of the environmental management system requirements into the organization’s business processes. Note: reference to “business” in this document can be interpreted broadly to mean activities that are core to the organization’s purpose(s)/existence.			
5.2 Environmental policy			
Other specific commitment(s) to protect the environment, including preservation or conservation of natural resources, sustainable resource use, climate change mitigation and adaptation, or protection of biodiversity and ecosystems?			
If the environmental policy is available as documented information?			

Clause 6 Planning

Have you determined:	Ready	Nearly ready	Work to do
Restructured documentation as per the 2026 standard?			
6.1.1 General			
An established, implemented and maintained process(es) to meet the requirements in 6.1.2 to 6.1.5? That the process(es) for 6.1.2 to 6.1.5 shall be available as documented information to the extent necessary to have confidence that they are carried out as planned?			
6.1.2 Environmental aspects			
Awareness of the note describing the stages of a life cycle? That a life cycle perspective considers the environmental aspects and impacts at each life cycle stage? The stages include acquiring raw materials, design, production, transportation/delivery, use, end-of-life treatment and final disposal.			
Environmental aspects that consider: a) Normal and abnormal conditions? b) Change, including planned or new developments, and new or modified activities, products and services? c) Potential emergency situations? Those aspects that have or can have a significant environmental impact?			
If the following are available as documented information? Environmental aspects and associated environmental impacts. Criteria used to determine its significant environmental aspects. Significant environmental aspects.			
6.1.3 Compliance obligations			
If the compliance obligations are available as documented information?			

Have you determined:	Ready	Nearly ready	Work to do
6.2 Environmental objectives and planning to achieve them			
6.2.1 Environmental objectives			
If the objectives are available as documented information?			
6.3 Planning of changes			
The need for changes that affect or can affect the environmental management system? The changes shall be carried out in a planned manner and managed to ensure that the organization can achieve the intended outcomes of its environmental management system. Awareness of the notes below? Note 1: The need for change to the environmental management system can arise from internal or external sources. Note 2: Managing change is addressed in various requirements in this document.			

Clause 7 Support

Have you determined:	Ready	Nearly ready	Work to do
7.2 Competence			
An updated environmental management system to reflect the necessary competence of the person(s) doing work under its control that affects its environmental performance and ability to meet its compliance obligations?			
If the appropriate documentation is available as evidence of competence?			
7.3 Awareness			
An updated environmental management system to reflect the change below? a) The implications of not conforming to the environmental management system requirements, including not meeting the organization's compliance obligations			
7.4 Communication			
7.4.1 General			
An updated environmental management system to reflect the change below? If the documented information is available as evidence of its communications, as appropriate?			
7.5 Documented information			
7.5.2 Creating and updating documented information			
If the environmental management system has been updated to reflect the new clause title?			

Clause 8 Operations

Have you determined:	Ready	Nearly ready	Work to do
8.1 Operational planning and control			
If planning and control, in line with the new requirement of ensuring externally provided processes, products or services, which are relevant to the intended outcomes of the environmental management system, are controlled or influenced?			
If the process(es) needed for 8.1 are available as documented information to the extent necessary to have confidence that the process(es) have been carried out as planned?			
8.2 Emergency preparedness and response			
An established, implemented and maintained process(es) to prepare for and respond to potential emergency situations identified in 6.1.2?			
If the process(es) needed for 8.2 are available as documented information to the extent necessary to have confidence that the process(es) is (are) carried out as planned?			

Clause 9 Performance evaluation

Have you determined:	Ready	Nearly ready	Work to do
9.1 Monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation			
9.1.1 General			
If the appropriate documented information is available as evidence of the monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation results?			
9.1.2 Evaluation of compliance			
An established, implemented and maintained process(es) to evaluate if it is meeting its compliance obligations?			
If the appropriate documented information is available as evidence of the compliance evaluation result(s)?			
9.2 Internal audit			
9.2.2 Internal audit program			
The audit criteria and scope for each audit?			
If the following documented information is available? The audit program. Evidence of the implementation of the audit program(s). Evidence of the audit results.			
9.3 Management review			
An updated environmental management system to reflect clause changes in ISO 14001:2026?			
If the management review has been updated to cover the environmental management system inputs and results, including whether compliance obligations are being met?			
If the documented information is available as evidence of the results of management reviews?			

Clause 10 Improvement

Have you determined:	Ready	Nearly ready	Work to do
10.1 General			
An updated environmental management system in line with the ISO 14001:2026 clause changes?			
If you are continually improving the suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the environmental management system to enhance environmental performance by determining opportunities for improvement and implementing necessary actions to achieve the intended outcomes of the environmental management system?			
10.2 Nonconformity and corrective action			
If the documented information is available as evidence of: The nature of the nonconformities and any subsequent actions taken? The results of any corrective action?			

Your next step

All or most answers are Ready (with Nearly ready making up the minority):	Most answers are Nearly ready (with Ready and Work to do making up the minority):	Most answers are Work to do (with Ready and Nearly ready making up the minority):
Congratulations! You are ready to book your transition audit with SGS. You can register your interest via https://www.sgs.com/en/contact-form. Alternatively, contact your local office, which will help progress your transition.	Your organization would benefit from a gap analysis to identify the areas that need addressing and provide practical ways to address them. To do this, contact your SGS auditor or local office directly.	You are not quite up to date with some areas of the new standard, but this can be resolved in various ways. SGS Academy hosts a variety of transition courses, aimed at organizations certified to the previous standard. An SGS Product Expert Consultation call with one of our product experts will help increase your ISO 14001:2026 knowledge. A gap analysis will identify the areas that need attention and how to address them.

Materials to support your transition

We are committed to making your transition as easy as possible. Check out our dedicated information and transition guidance at <https://www.sgs.com/en/showcases/iso-14001-2026-key-updates-and-transition-guidance>.

Not an SGS customer?

It is easy to transfer your certification to SGS. If you would like us to support you through this process, contact our support team via <https://www.sgs.com/en/contact-form>.

When you need to be sure

SGS Headquarters
Zugerstrasse 57
6340 Baar
Switzerland

sgs.com



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