

# Environmental Management System Certification

ISO 14001 is the internationally recognised standard for the certification of Environmental Management Systems for Organizations of all kinds who are concerned with achieving and demonstrating sound environmental performance by controlling their impacts on their activities, Products or services, taking into their environmental policy and objectives.

It helps organizations who are in the context of stringent legislation, development of economic policies, other measures to foster the environmental protection and a general growth of concern from interested parties about environmental matters including sustainable development.



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RvA C 407

Implementing an Environmental Management System provides a framework to organization for managing environmental responsibilities so that they become more efficient and more integrated into overall business operations. It helps to improve overall environmental performance and compliance and provides a framework for using pollution prevention practices to meet EMS objectives. It also increases efficiency and potential cost savings when managing environmental obligations. It promotes predictability and consistency in managing environmental obligations. It ensures effective targeting of scarce environmental management resources and enhances public posture with outside stake holders. New customers will place initial orders with confidence. This can open up the marketplace to increased opportunities and company growth.

In almost all cases, companies seek to have their system independently assessed. This enhances the credibility of any system.

- Registration to ISO 14001 by an accredited certification body such as Velosi shows a commitment to Environment to customers, and a willingness to work towards improving efficiency levels.
- It demonstrates the existence of an effective environmental management system that satisfies the rigours of an independent, external audit.
- An ISO 14001 certificate enhances company image in the eyes of customers, employees and shareholders alike.
- It also gives a competitive edge to an organisation's marketing.

The implementation of a system takes time and commitment from senior management and has several key steps in the process, which include:

- Identify the requirements of ISO 14001 and how they apply to the business involved.
- Establish Environment objectives and how they fit in to the operation of the business.
- Produce a documented Environment policy indicating how these requirements are satisfied.
- Communicate the Environment objectives throughout the organisation.
- Evaluate the Environmental policy, its stated objectives and then prioritise requirements to ensure they are met.
- Identify the boundaries of the management system and produce documented procedures as required.
- Ensure these procedures are suitable and adhered to.
- Once developed, internal audits are needed to ensure the system carries on working.



Once all these requirements are in place and each element of the ISO 14001 standard has been implemented, an external audit can be conducted.

The external audit should be carried out by an independent party such as Velosi who is, in turn, accredited by RvA in accordance with international guidelines for certification body accreditation International Accreditation Forum. Any system accredited by an unaccredited company does not give the same confidence as one that is fully accredited.

Velosi will initially carry out a review of the EMS manuals and procedures. This process involves looking at the company's evaluation of the written environmental system and ascertains if targets set for the management programme are measurable and achievable. This is followed, at a later date, by an on-site audit of the complete system to ensure that working practices observe the procedures and stated objectives, and that appropriate records are kept.

After a successful audit, a certificate of registration to ISO 14001 will be issued. There will then be surveillance visits (usually once or twice a year dependent on the size of your company) by the certification body to ensure that the system is implemented on a continuous basis.

Velosi has a track record for excellent customer satisfaction for its certification services. Whether your company is a large multinational or a small local business, the stripping back on unnecessary bureaucracy and a personal approach means you will receive the same level of commitment and service.

Velosi Auditors have gained their experience in industry and are selected on their knowledge of the industry sector, so that they are able to understand your business fully. This ensures the audit process produces meaningful results and improvements to the business process.

Velosi is accredited by the Dutch Accreditation Council RvA (Raad Voor Accreditatie), whose headquarters are in Holland, in accordance with international guidelines for certification body accreditation the International Accreditation Forum. The RvA gauged Velosi against highly accepted and rigorous global standards, which included them witnessing the certification random audits. RvA's accreditation of Velosi signifies its confidence in the system developed by Velosi that complies with international accreditation requirements for certification bodies i.e. Guide 62.

## Training

To maintain its independence, a separate division of Velosi provides professional training programmes in partnership with an international training organization using competent professionals in Environment Management System. Velosi also conducts its own auditor training programs like ISO 14001 Awareness training course, ISO 14001 Internal Auditor course, ISO 14001 Lead Auditor course and those registered with International Register for Certificated Auditors (IRCA). Additional information, including application forms and a list of our accredited scopes, can be found on our web site. We have designed our courses to provide you with the tools you need to make the most of your management system. To provide the best solutions, we offer both Public Courses and On-Site Training Options.

