

## Key considerations

Environmental issues have come to the forefront in recent years with greater awareness amongst legislators, insurers, financiers, shareholders, customers, employees and neighbours.

Concern for the environment has forced the international community to look at ways of reducing the impact on the environment to ensure it is protected for future generations.

These have mainly taken the form of legislation and regulations.

Breaches of such legislation and disregard for the environment generally are becoming costly in terms of liability, publicity and health.

So BS EN ISO 14001 is relevant to every organisation including:

- single site to large multi-national companies
- high risk companies to low risk service organisations
- manufacturing, process and the service industries; including local governments
- all industry sectors including public and private sectors
- original equipment manufacturers and their suppliers.

## Recommendation for employers

Implementation of BS EN ISO 14001 promotes a responsible approach to environmental management. It can help an organisation to manage its environmental aspects and their associated impacts, enabling improved performance from its existing business practices and efficient use of energy and natural resources. Being accredited to ISO14001 can help in winning business, improve organisational PR and improve the relationship with regulators.

BS EN ISO 14001 uses the Deming Quality Cycle Model of plan-do-check-act and can be used as a tool for ensuring compliance to the extensive environmental legislative requirements, reducing the risk of prosecution and fostering more awareness amongst employees.

To realise the true benefits of the effective implementation of BS EN ISO 14001 there must be:

- commitment from senior management
- an involvement of staff throughout the organisation
- the fostering of an 'environmental culture'
- effective training and a commitment of resources.

## Case law

There is no specific case law relating to environmental management systems generally; however an effective management system gives an organisation the means to achieve all its legal compliance aims as they apply in environmental management. This is the most effective way to avoid liability and potential litigation.



## Legal duties

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 defined, within England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, the fundamental structure and authority for waste management and control of emissions into the environment. This has since been updated and superseded by numerous key pieces of legislation including the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 (and the equivalents in Scotland and Northern Ireland) and amendments; Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010 (and the equivalents in Scotland and Northern Ireland) and amendments.

There is also a raft of regulations affecting emissions to air under the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED); emissions to land and water; biodiversity, etc.

The environmental regulators in the UK are:

- The Environment Agency (the EA - England)
- The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
- The Northern Ireland Environmental Agency (NIEA)
- Natural Resources Wales (NRW)
- The National Park Authorities.

## Standards available

### BS EN ISO 14001:2015

BS EN ISO 14001 is a recognised International Organisation Standardisation (ISO) certifiable standard for environmental management.

- It affords a model on which to base a systematic and strategic approach to environmental management within a whole business
- guidance is contained in the accompanying publication BS EN ISO 14004 and is supported by other standards in the 14000 series
- BS EN ISO 14001 can be effectively aligned and integrated with other popular standards such as BS ISO 9001 (Quality) BS OHSAS 18001 (Health and Safety) and BS ISO 50001 (Energy).

### Other relevant Barbour resources:

- Barbour Technical Guide - Environmental Management Systems - ISO14001, EMAS, Benefits & Overview
- BS EN ISO 14004:2010 - Environmental Management Systems. General Guidelines on Principles, Systems and Supporting Techniques
- BS EN ISO 14006:2011 - Environmental Management Systems. Guidelines for Incorporating Ecodesign
- BS EN ISO 14031:2000 - Environmental Management. Environmental Performance Evaluation - Guidelines
- BS ISO 14050:2009 - Environmental Management. Vocabulary
- PAS 99:2006 - Specification of Common Management System Requirements as a Framework for Integration
- PAS 402:2009 - Waste Resource Management. Specification for Performance Reporting
- BS EN ISO 19011:2011 - Guidelines for Auditing Management Systems.



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