ISO 14001:2026 Transition Checklist
How well are you prepared?

Since its introduction in September 1996, ISO 14001 has become the **globally recognized standard for environmental management systems (EMS)**. Following two prior revisions in 2004 and 2015, it is currently estimated that more than 500,000 companies and organizations worldwide are certified according to this standard – ranging from manufacturing companies to public authorities, service providers, and suppliers across virtually all sectors of industry.

Additionally, an EMS based on ISO 14001 serves as a foundation for participation in the European **"Eco Management and Audit Scheme" (EMAS)**, which in addition requires the publication of regularly externally validated environmental statements.

The latest revision has now been published — meaning that the time has come for many users to **consider what this update means for you and your organization**.

The good news first: The basic structure will be retained and only selectively further developed, particularly to align the standard with the so-called "Harmonized Structure" for management systems. The close link with the requirements of ISO 9001 for quality management and ISO 45001 for occupational health and safety remains, ensuring continued integration with integrated management systems. These standards are also currently being revised: ISO 9001 is expected in late summer/fall of 2026, and the new ISO 45001 is set to follow in 2027.

Even though there are content changes in several areas, these primarily serve to **clarify existing requirements and interpretations**. The fundamental objective of ISO 14001 — i.e. to ensure a comprehensive and holistic consideration of environmental aspects throughout the life cycle of an organization's products and services — is thus further strengthened.

Many of the new standard's requirements will therefore already be implemented in many certified organizations. However, the following checklist is intended as an initial aid to **check on any gaps and demonstrate conformity** in future external audits. When in doubt, it is always worth consulting the standard itself — and of course, we are happy to assist with any questions you may have!

We hope this information is helpful to you and look forward to any feedback, contacts, or questions under **info@bsk-rauscher.de**!

Your team at BSK Rauscher

Checklist

Requirement	Implemented? (yes/no/to be clarified)			Objective evidence, examples, comments
	✔	✕	?	
Scope and any exclusions of the EMS reflect the life cycle of products and services				
The environmental policy includes commitments to environmental protection, improvement of related performance, and compliance with applicable legal and other binding obligations				
Environmental protection is considered in the strategy and target-setting process and part of the planning, budgeting, and monitoring instruments				
Environmental opportunities & risks are systematically identified, regularly assessed, and rated				
The environmental aspect assessment takes into account upstream and downstream phases of the product life cycle (e.g., procurement of raw materials and components, use/application of products, end-of-life)				
Opportunities for control or influence on upstream and downstream stages of the value chain are systematically assessed, and respective potentials are actively seized				
The development of “dynamic environmental conditions” (e.g. climate change, availability of energy, land and other resources, biodiversity, technological changes, emerging contaminants, supply chains, etc.) is monitored; resulting opportunities and risks are specifically addressed				
External suppliers and service providers are systematically integrated into the EMS				
Changes in facilities, processes, products, or services are specifically examined for environmental relevance, systematically planned, controlled, and monitored				
Internal audits are planned and conducted on a risk-oriented basis, with clear and documented objectives for each audit				

Requirement	**Implemented?** (yes/no/to be clarified)			**Objective evidence, examples, comments**
	✔	✕	?	
The evaluation by top management/management review explicitly considers environmental factors in the direct and wider organizational context, legal aspects and developments, resources, external inquiries/expectations, targets/KPIs, etc.				
Examples of continuous improvement in environmental performance are documented and, if possible, supported by measurable indicators				
Incidents, deviations, anomalies, etc. are systematically recorded and analyzed; appropriate follow-up measures and “lessons learned” are derived, implemented, and tracked				