# Revision of ISO 14001 Environmental management systems - Requirements with guidance for use

## Information note on scope, process, time lines and emerging changes Updated July 2014

This communication provides information on the scope, process, timeline and emerging changes of the on-going revision of ISO 14001. It will be updated as the revision progresses.

## What is the scope of the revision?

The scope and launch of the revision of ISO 14001 was agreed by ballot of National Standards Bodies (NSB) in late 2011. The revision work commenced in early 2012. The agreed scope of the revision is that it shall:

- be based on the ISO/TMB approved requirements and application guidance related to the JTCG work on the High Level Structure (HLS) for Management System Standards (MSS) and its identical text, common terms and core definitions (referred to as 'Annex SL structure')
- consider the final report of the ISO/TC 207 SC 1 "Future Challenges for EMS" Study Group
- ensure the maintenance and improvement of the basic principles of ISO 14001: 2004, and also the retention and improvement of its existing requirements.

## What stage is the revision at?

The Draft International Standard (DIS) of the revised version of ISO 14001 was made available to NSB on 1 July 2014 for national language translation. The three month balloting and commenting period (public enquiry) will begin on 28 August 2014. The next planned meeting is in February 2015 to review comments from the DIS ballot, revise the text, as applicable to comments, and issue a Final Draft International Standard. Publication is planned for quarter 3 of 2015.

Emerging changes are a direct result of the scope of revision – see above – and feedback from the ISO 14001 Continual Improvement Survey that was conducted by ISO/TC 207/SC 1 in 2013 (final report issued 1 February 2014).

#### What are the emerging changes?

Strategic Environmental Management – There is an increased prominence of environmental management within the organization's strategic planning processes. A new requirement to understand the organization's context has been incorporated to identify and leverage opportunities for the benefit of both the organization and the environment. Particular focus is on issues or changing circumstances related to the needs and expectations of interested parties (including regulatory requirements) and local, regional or global environmental conditions that can affect, or be affected by, the organization. Once identified as a priority, actions to mitigate adverse risk or exploit beneficial opportunities are integrated in the operational planning of the environmental management system.

Leadership – To ensure the success of the system, a new clause has been added that assigns specific responsibilities for those in leadership roles to promote environmental management within the organization.

Protecting the environment – The expectation on organizations has been expanded to commit to proactive initiatives to protect the environment from harm and degradation, consistent with the context of the organization. The revised text does not define 'protect the environment' but it notes that it can include prevention of pollution, sustainable resource use, climate change mitigation and adaptation, protection of biodiversity and ecosystems, etc.

© ISO/TC 207/SC 1 2 July 2014

Environmental performance – There is a shift in emphasis with regard to continual improvement, from improving the management system to improving environmental performance. Consistent with the organization's policy commitments the organization would, as applicable, reduce emissions, effluents and waste to levels set by the organization.

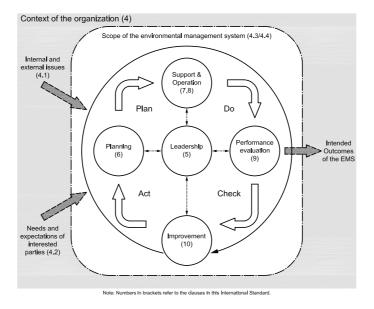
Lifecycle thinking – In addition to the current requirement to manage environmental aspects associated with procured goods and service, organizations will need to extend its control and influence to the environmental impacts associated with product use and end-of-life treatment or disposal. This does not imply a requirement to do a life cycle assessment.

Communication – The development of a communications strategy with equal emphasis on external and internal communications has been added. This includes a requirement on communicating consistent and reliable information, and establishing mechanisms for persons working under the organization's control to make suggestions on improving the environmental management system. The decision to communicate externally is retained by the organization but the decision needs to take into account information reporting required by regulatory agencies and the expectations of other interested parties.

Documentation – Reflecting the evolution of computer and cloud based systems for running management systems, the revision incorporates the term 'documented information', instead of 'documents' and 'records'. To align with ISO 9001, the organization will retain the flexibility to determine when 'procedures' are needed to ensure effective process control.

#### What happened to PDCA?

The DIS links the Annex SL structure and the ISO 14001 PDCA model as per illustration below.



#### Will there be further changes?

In terms of the emerging changes in the DIS it is important to remember that the:

- DIS provides a good indication of key concepts emerging in the revision but that proposed text still can and may change;
- revision is at DIS for ballot and comment stage.

## How does ISO 14001 revision link with ISO 9001 revision?

There is close co-operation between the committee with responsibility for the revision of ISO 9001, ISO/TC 176/SC 2, and TC 207/SC 1. Both groups benefit from a regularly updated tabular comparison on how various elements of the Annex SL structure are being handled by the two

© ISO/TC 207/SC 1 2 July 2014

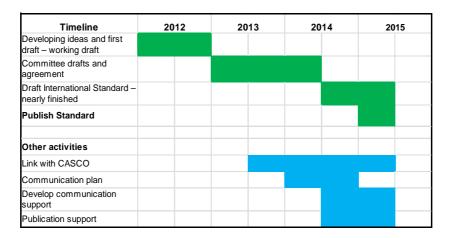
working groups. A liaison arrangement exists between the two committees to help understanding and to identify further need for alignment between the two standards. NSB members have been requested to collaborate among their respective TC 176 and TC 207 experts to develop and submit joint comments on issues related to alignment between the two standards.

## Who is responsible for the revision?

The revision is being carried out by experts nominated by their National Standards Bodies and liaison organizations. The experts are working by consensus to agree the revised text of ISO 14001. The working group (WG5) is being led by Susan L.K. Briggs (Convenor) and Horacio Martirena (Vice-convenor) and the secretariat is held jointly by Katherina Wührl and Mike Henigan.

#### When will it be finished?

The time plan and activities are as follows:



#### Where can I find more information?

For content of the draft international standard please contact your National Standards Body or purchase it from www.iso.org.

## Links

- ISO/TC 207/SC 1 website: <a href="https://www.iso.org/iso/tc207sc1home">www.iso.org/iso/tc207sc1home</a>
- ISO/TC 207/SC 1 Continual Improvement Survey : <a href="http://www.iso.org/iso/home/standards\_development/list\_of\_iso\_technical\_committees/tc20">http://www.iso.org/iso/home/standards\_development/list\_of\_iso\_technical\_committees/tc20</a>
  <a href="https://www.iso.org/iso14001-continual-improvement-survey-2013.htm">7sc1home/iso14001-continual-improvement-survey-2013.htm</a>
- ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 and Consolidated ISO Supplement Procedures specific to ISO, 5th edition 2014 - Annex SL: http://isotc.iso.org/livelink/livelink?func=ll&obild=4230452&obiAction=browse&sort=subtype
- ISO/TC 207/SC 1 EMS future challenges report: http://isotc.iso.org/livelink/livelink?func=Il&objId=9726423&objAction=browse&viewType=1
- ISO National Standards Bodies: http://www.iso.org/iso/home/about/iso\_members.htm
- ISO web store: http://www.iso.org/iso/home/store/catalogue\_tc/catalogue\_detail.htm?csnumber=60857

## **Contacts**

Mike Henigan, BSI and Katherina Wührl, DIN – Joint Secretaries to ISO/TC 207/SC 1/WG 5 mike.henigan@bsigroup.com and katherina.wuehrl@din.de

© ISO/TC 207/SC 1 2 July 2014