

7. End User Expected Outcomes for Accredited Certification to RC14001

- 7.1. The expected outcomes for an organization with accredited certification to RC14001 are continuous improvement and responsiveness to stakeholders' concerns about the chemical industry's products and operations [further detailed in the introduction of RC 14001 (RC 151)].
- 7.2. The CB shall have processes to ensure that its auditors and other certification personnel are knowledgeable of the expected outcomes and consistently reinforce them with the CB's clients.

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RC14001 TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION



RESPONSIBLE CARE[®]
OUR COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

Formatting Note

This Technical Specification Document includes references to international standard ISO 14001:2015 – Environmental Management Systems and additional Responsible Care elements preceding or following sections of the standard (“boxed text”). This is intended to assist organizations and other users in understanding the relationship between ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems Standard and the expanded Responsible Care scope of this document. Organizations seeking RC14001 certification must demonstrate conformance to both the ISO 14001 and the Responsible Care requirements (“boxed text”) found in Sections 4 - 10.3 of this Technical Specification.

ISO 14001:2015

This Technical Specification document includes entire text of international standard ISO-14001:2015 – Environmental Management Systems.

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RC14001:2015

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RC14001 Introduction

Responsible Care

Responsible Care is an initiative managed by chemical associations, developed and adopted along with their member companies to continuously improve environmental, health and safety (EHS) performance of their operations and products in a manner responsive to the concerns of the public. Responsible Care was first adopted as a new model for the management of chemicals by the Chemistry Industry Association of Canada (CIAC) in 1985 and has since been adopted by chemical associations in more than 60 economies. Responsible Care is the basis of significant cultural change within the chemical industry which leads to improved performance and new levels of dialogue with the public about issues of mutual concern.

The global chemical industry has embraced Responsible Care because it is viewed as “good citizenship” with a positive impact on companies’ economic bottom line and competitiveness. For the individual company, implementation of Responsible Care leads to improved efficiency, lower environment, health and safety costs and improved relations with stakeholders. For the global chemical industry, successful implementation of Responsible Care demonstrates an appropriate public policy which protects its license to operate and its ability to innovate and meet society’s demands for its products. For the public, successful implementation of Responsible Care ensures that the chemical industry will continue to provide beneficial products to society and continually reduce its impacts, while maximizing its positive contributions to human health, the economy and society.

One of the key tenets of Responsible Care is openness and responsiveness to public and other stakeholder concerns about the management of chemicals. Therefore, the chemical industry has a keen appreciation of the need to seek input from the public and other interested groups, include this input in its development of policies, programs and priorities, and report on its progress in these areas.

RC14001

RC14001 was originally developed by the American Chemistry Council (www.americanchemistry.com) for use by its members and Responsible Care Partners as part of its Responsible Care certification process and reflects ACC program priorities (e.g., Security, Product Safety, etc.). The RC14001 Technical Specification combines the elements of the American Chemistry Council’s (“ACC”) Responsible Care initiative with those of the ISO 14001 Environmental Management System, adopted by the International Organization for Standardization (“ISO”) in 1996 and as amended in 2015. RC14001 enables a company to obtain, through an application and audit process, a certification that its management system conforms to both the ISO 14001 standard and a broader scope of Responsible Care elements. For ACC’s members and Responsible Care Partners, RC14001 certification, in accordance with established requirements, allows them to meet the Council’s certification requirements.

This Technical Specification document consists of the actual text of ISO 14001 and additional text in corresponding “boxed” sections. These boxed sections include the additional Responsible Care elements required under the RC14001 scope. ACC believes that the use of this Technical Specification can assist organizations in achieving the desirable goals and objectives set forth in both Responsible Care and ISO 14001. Terms specific to the Responsible Care requirements are underlined in the “boxed” sections of the document and included in Section 3 – Terms and Definitions.

While originally developed by ACC for use by its companies, RC14001 is applicable and available on a worldwide basis to organizations regardless of their operations. ACC encourages the use of RC14001 if it meets an organization’s business needs. Organizations outside the ACC membership seeking RC14001 certification must conform to the requirements set forth in ACC’s procedure documents which can be accessed at <http://responsiblecare.americanchemistry.com/ServicesResources>. Certification

bodies seeking to provide RC14001 certification must likewise conform to the requirements set forth in the ACC procedures and obtain accreditation from a designated accreditation body. Information links on accreditation bodies authorized by ACC to provide accreditation services and accredited certification bodies can also be found on <http://responsiblecare.americanchemistry.com/ServicesResources>.

An organization which obtains RC14001 certification may identify itself as being “RC14001 certified” within the scope of its management system. RC14001 certification does not confer any rights to use the Responsible Care logo or to identify the organization as a “Responsible Care” entity. Use of the Responsible Care logo and name are restricted to companies which meet the Responsible Care membership and program requirements established by national and regional chemical federations. A listing of chemical federations with recognized Responsible Care programs can be found in Annex C. Membership in one of these national or regional chemical federations does not necessarily mean that the organization is a participant in Responsible Care and eligible to use the name and logo.

Introduction

0.1 Background

Achieving a balance between the environment, society and the economy is considered essential to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Sustainable development as a goal is achieved by balancing the three pillars of sustainability.

Societal expectations for sustainable development, transparency and accountability have evolved with increasingly stringent legislation, growing pressures on the environment from pollution, inefficient use of resources, improper waste management, climate change, degradation of ecosystems and loss of biodiversity.

This has led organizations to adopt a systematic approach to environmental management by implementing environmental management systems with the aim of contributing to the environmental pillar of sustainability.

0.2 Aim of an environmental management system

The purpose of this International Standard is to provide organizations with a framework to protect the environment and respond to changing environmental conditions in balance with socio-economic needs. It specifies requirements that enable an organization to achieve the intended outcomes it sets for its environmental management system.

A systematic approach to environmental management can provide top management with information to build success over the long term and create options for contributing to sustainable development by:

- protecting the environment by preventing or mitigating adverse environmental impacts;
- mitigating the potential adverse effect of environmental conditions on the organization;
- assisting the organization in the fulfilment of compliance obligations;
- enhancing environmental performance;
- controlling or influencing the way the organization's products and services are designed, manufactured, distributed, consumed and disposed by using a life cycle perspective that can prevent environmental impacts from being unintentionally shifted elsewhere within the life cycle;
- achieving financial and operational benefits that can result from implementing environmentally sound alternatives that strengthen the organization's market position;
- communicating environmental information to relevant interested parties.

This International Standard, like other International Standards, is not intended to increase or change an organization's legal requirements.

0.3 Success factors

The success of an environmental management system depends on commitment from all levels and functions of the organization, led by top management. Organizations can leverage opportunities to prevent or mitigate adverse environmental impacts and enhance beneficial environmental impacts, particularly those with strategic and competitive implications. Top management can effectively address its risks and opportunities by integrating environmental management into the organization's business processes, strategic direction and decision making, aligning them with other business priorities, and incorporating environmental governance into its overall management system. Demonstration of

successful implementation of this International Standard can be used to assure interested parties that an effective environmental management system is in place.

Adoption of this International Standard, however, will not in itself guarantee optimal environmental outcomes. Application of this International Standard can differ from one organization to another due to the context of the organization. Two organizations can carry out similar activities but can have different compliance obligations, commitments in their environmental policy, environmental technologies and environmental performance goals, yet both can conform to the requirements of this International Standard.

The level of detail and complexity of the environmental management system will vary depending on the context of the organization, the scope of its environmental management system, its compliance obligations, and the nature of its activities, products and services, including its environmental aspects and associated environmental impacts.

0.4 Plan-Do-Check-Act model

The basis for the approach underlying an environmental management system is founded on the concept of Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA). The PDCA model provides an iterative process used by organizations to achieve continual improvement. It can be applied to an environmental management system and to each of its individual elements. It can be briefly described as follows.

- Plan: establish environmental objectives and processes necessary to deliver results in accordance with the organization's environmental policy.
- Do: implement the processes as planned.
- Check: monitor and measure processes against the environmental policy, including its commitments, environmental objectives and operating criteria, and report the results.
- Act: take actions to continually improve.

Figure 1 shows how the framework introduced in this International Standard could be integrated into a PDCA model, which can help new and existing users to understand the importance of a systems approach.

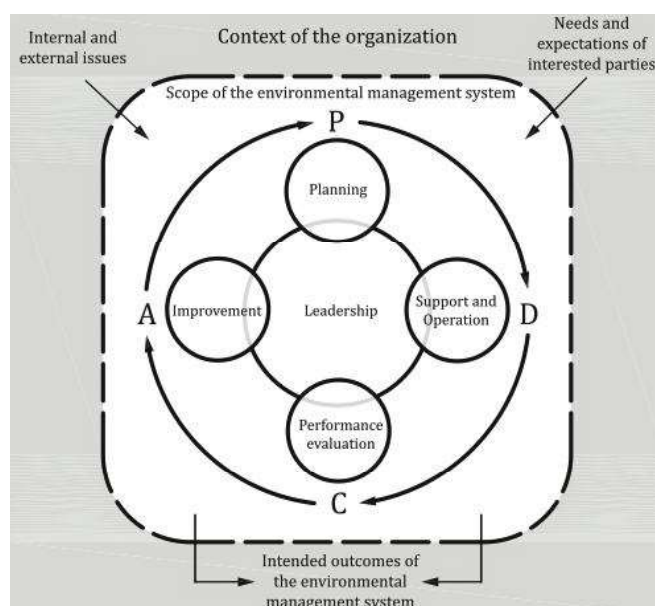


Figure 1 — Relationship between PDCA and the framework in this International Standard