



ISO 14001:2004

ISO 14001:2004 is an environmental standard which specifies requirements for an environmental quality management system. This enables an organisation to develop and implement a policy which takes stock of all the legal and other environmental requirements to which that organisation subscribes. It therefore applies only to the environmental aspects that the organisation identifies i.e. those which it can control and/or influence. It does not itself state specific environmental performance criteria, but demonstrates a company's commitment to environmental protection and continuous improvement.

- The ISO 14000 family of standards provides practical tools for companies and organisations of all kinds looking to manage their environmental responsibilities.
- ISO 14001:2004 focuses on environmental systems to achieve and demonstrate environmental responsibility, but doesn't constitute a legal document.
- ISO 14001:2004 is currently under review, publication of the new standard is expected in October 2015. Details of potential changes can be found on the ISO website.

ISO 14001 Standard requirements:

- Establishing an environmental policy
- Setting objectives
- Demonstrating competence & training
- Document control and record keeping
- Management Review
- Internal audit
- Corrective & preventive actions
- Continual improvement philosophy



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Benefits of ISO 14001

- Demonstrates effective control over the environmental impacts of a business's activities, products & services
- Cost savings from better environmental management leading to a reduction in waste and energy use
- Demonstration of compliance can expand business opportunities by winning greater customer trust

For what sectors of horticulture is the ISO 14001 Standard scheme suitable?

- Relevant to all sectors
- Certification is of most relevance to larger producers supplying retailers,
- Guidance for SMEs is available, and self-assessment can be valuable even if certification is not viable economically

What assurance categories does the ISO 14001 Standard cover?

- Environmental management
- Environmental legislation
- Training/ Health and safety
- Emergency procedures

How to become ISO 14001 certified

Internal and external auditing are required in order set up and maintain ISO 14001 certification:

1. Set up management systems according to ISO principals/templates (in-house or using an external consultant)
2. Carry out an internal audit by specified members of staff
3. Invite an external certification body in to certify you

Once certified, regular and recorded internal auditing is required to maintain certification along with an annual surveillance visit by an external auditor and a re-certification visit on a 3 year cycle

Certification bodies

- ISO develop the International Standards but are not involved in their certification
- It is best to use certification bodies that use the CASCO Standard. In the UK certifiers should be United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) accredited
- Costs will vary greatly depending on size and complexity of the business and the certification body used.
- Independent consultants are available to help set up QMSs and some provide training courses (fees estimated at £400)
- For a small business (<10 employees) using an external consultant ISO 14001 could be set up in around 6 weeks for £1500-£2000. Annual surveillance and re-certification (3 yearly) would be about half this initial cost

Further information

Website: <http://www.iso.org/iso/home/standards/management-standards/iso14000.htm> details lots of information on ISO standards and provides advice on choosing a certification body.
<http://www.british-assessment.co.uk/iso-small-business-service/> provide a small business service for ISO certification.

International Organization for Standardization

ISO Central Secretariat, Chemin de Blandonnet 8, CP 401, 1214 Vernier, Geneva, Switzerland
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For details of other quality assurance schemes and British standards please contact Horticulture Wales. www.horticulturewales.co.uk

