



BS EN ISO 14001:2026

Environmental management systems – requirements with guidance for use

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BSI has published the 2026 revision of the standard for environmental management systems (EMS) - BS EN ISO 14001:2026. The update is designed to better help organisations align with emerging climate commitments, ESG priorities and regulatory requirements.

It specifies the requirements for an environmental management system that an organisation can use to enhance its environmental performance.

The standard is intended for use by organisations of all sizes and sectors seeking to manage their environmental responsibilities in a systematic manner that contributes to the environmental pillar of sustainability. The revised standard places greater emphasis on leadership accountability, lifecycle thinking and supply chain oversight, ensuring environmental considerations are fully integrated into decision-making at every level.

The guidance aims to help an organisation achieve the intended outcomes of its environmental management system, which provide value for the environment, the organisation itself, and interested parties. Consistent with the organisation's environmental policy, the intended outcomes of an environmental management system include:

- Enhancement of environmental performance.
- Fulfilment of compliance obligations.
- Achievement of environmental objectives.

The guidance is applicable to any organisation, regardless of size, type, and nature, and applies to the environmental aspects of its activities, products and services that the organisation determines it can either control or influence considering a life cycle perspective. It does not state specific environmental performance criteria.

The standard sets out:

- Terms and definitions:
 - o Terms related to organisation and leadership.
 - o Terms related to planning.
 - o Terms related to support and operation.
 - o Terms related to performance evaluation and improvement.
- Context of the organisation:
 - o Understanding the organisation and its context.
 - o Understanding the needs and expectations of interested parties.
 - o Determining the scope of the environmental management system.
 - o Environmental management system.

- Leadership:
 - o Leadership and commitment.
 - o Environmental policy.
 - o Roles, responsibilities and authorities.
- Planning:
 - o Actions to address risks and opportunities.
 - o Environmental objectives and planning to achieve them.
- Support:
 - o Resources.
 - o Competence.
 - o Awareness.
 - o Communication.
 - o Documented information.
- Operation:
 - o Operational planning and control.
 - o Emergency preparedness and response.
- Performance evaluation:
 - o Monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation.
 - o Internal audit.
 - o Management review.
- Improvement:
 - o Continual improvement.
 - o Nonconformity and corrective action

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