

TRANSITION GUIDE FOR CERTIFIED CLIENTS

ISO 14001:2026 Transition Guide

What changes, key dates and how to
prepare



Your partner in building a robust, safe and sustainable business.

Your transition at a glance

ISO 14001:2026 TRANSITION GUIDE

ISO 14001:2026 was published in April 2026. It replaces ISO 14001:2015, and every certified organisation has three years to move to the new version. This guide explains what has changed, the key dates, what you need to do and how your transition audit will work.

3 years

to move to ISO 14001:2026

30 April 2029

ISO 14001:2015 certificates end

Evolution

not a rewrite: the structure stays the same

Key dates

- April 2026** ○ ISO 14001:2026 is published
- 2 October 2026** ○ JASANZ issues its ISO 14001:2026 transition policy
- 31 October 2027** ○ Last date to receive a new ISO 14001:2015 certificate
- From 1 May 2028** ○ All your GCC audits include the transition
- 31 January 2029** ○ Last date for your transition audit
- 30 April 2029** ● **All ISO 14001:2015 certificates end**

The transition follows the mandatory requirements of Global ACI and the JASANZ ISO 14001:2026 Transition Policy. You do not need to send any form to GCC. Your account manager will contact you to plan your transition audit.



What is changing

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The changes are evolutionary. Most organisations will find them practical and achievable with reasonable effort. The main changes are:

Environmental conditions

4.1, 4.2

Pollution, climate change, natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystem health are named as conditions to consider.

Life cycle

4.3, 6.1.2

Your scope and environmental aspects consider the life cycle and abnormal or emergency conditions.

Risks and opportunities

6.1.4

A new subclause links risks and opportunities to aspects, compliance obligations and context.

Planning of changes

6.3

A new clause: changes affecting the EMS are carried out in a planned way.

Leadership

5.1

Top management supports all relevant roles, not only managers.

External providers

8.1

Externally provided processes, products or services are controlled or influenced.

Performance and review

9.1.1, 9.2.2, 9.3

Data are analysed, internal audits have objectives and management review is split into inputs and results.

What stays the same. The clause structure (4 to 10) stays the same. Climate change requirements are not new; they have applied since February 2024. A clause by clause checklist is included at the end of this guide.

What you need to do

1

Get the new standard

Buy a copy of ISO 14001:2026 from Standards Australia or ISO.

2

Find your gaps

Use the checklist at the end of this guide to compare your EMS with the changes.

3

Update your system and train your people

Make the changes your EMS needs and brief the people whose work is affected.

4

Check that it works

Cover the new and changed requirements in an internal audit and a management review.

5

Plan your transition audit

Your GCC account manager will agree the timing and method with you.

Your transition audit

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How the transition audit works

- ✓ The transition audit can be combined with your next surveillance or recertification audit, or done as a separate audit. It may be conducted remotely.
- ✓ The GCC auditor reviews the changed requirements, any changes to your organisation and whether other changes to your EMS are needed.
- ✓ Auditors look for evidence that the changes work in practice, not just updated documents.
- ✓ You do not need to send us a gap analysis report. The auditor will ask how you reviewed the changes.
- ✓ Extra audit time may be needed. GCC will confirm this in your quotation.
- ✓ Any nonconformity against the new requirements must be closed before your new certificate can be issued.

Your certificate

At a surveillance audit

Your certificate is reissued to ISO 14001:2026 with the same expiry date.

At a recertification audit

You receive a new three year certificate to ISO 14001:2026.

On 30 April 2029

All ISO 14001:2015 certificates end, whatever expiry date they show.

If you decide not to transition

Please let your account manager know. GCC can continue to audit you against ISO 14001:2015, but your certificate will end on 30 April 2029. After that date, a new certification audit is needed.

Questions? Please contact your GCC account manager or call **1800 444 800**.

Gap analysis checklist

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Use this checklist to compare your EMS with the changes. It is optional and you do not need to send it to GCC. It summarises the changes and does not replace the standard.

Clause	What has changed	What to review in your EMS	Status	Actions
4.1	Environmental conditions named: pollution, climate change, natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystem health.	How you decided which conditions are relevant, with your reasoning.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	
4.2	Needs and expectations that become compliance obligations are addressed through the EMS.	How an interested party need becomes, or does not become, a compliance obligation.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	
4.3	Scope considers control and influence over the life cycle.	Your scope is factual and covers all relevant activities, products and services.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	
5.1	Top management supports other relevant roles, not only managers.	How supervisors and site leads are supported to lead on environmental matters.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	
5.2	Expanded NOTE with examples of commitments; "meet" compliance obligations.	Your policy includes the required commitments. The listed examples are guidance.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	
6.1.1	Planning reorganised across 6.1.2 to 6.1.5.	Planning still covers aspects, compliance obligations, risks and opportunities. No need to renumber your procedures.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	
6.1.2	Aspects consider normal and abnormal conditions, emergencies and life cycle stages.	One significant aspect followed through operating conditions, life cycle and controls.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	
6.1.3	Compliance obligations "available as documented information".	Your compliance obligations are documented and current. No extra fields are needed.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	
6.1.4	New: risks and opportunities related to aspects, compliance obligations and context.	Risks and opportunities needing action are identified and documented. A separate register is not required.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	
6.2.1	Objectives "available as documented information".	Objectives are measurable, monitored and documented. No separate record is needed.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	

Gap analysis checklist

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Clause	What has changed	What to review in your EMS	Status	Actions
6.3	New: changes affecting the EMS are planned.	One recent change, from trigger through assessment, implementation and review.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	
7.2, 7.4.1	Evidence of competence available; respond to relevant communications.	Competence evidence and how external communications are answered.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	
8.1	Externally provided processes, products or services are controlled or influenced.	Which providers matter and how you control or influence them.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	
8.2	Emergency processes available as documented information to the extent necessary.	One credible emergency, from planning through testing to review and updates.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	
9.1.1	Analysis of monitoring and measurement data is explicit.	How data are analysed and used in decisions, not just collected.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	
9.1.2	Evidence of compliance evaluation results available.	Records show the results of your latest compliance evaluation.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	
9.2.2	Objectives defined for each internal audit.	Internal audit plans state an objective as well as scope and criteria.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	
9.3	Management review split into general, inputs and results.	Agenda and minutes cover every input and record decisions.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	
10	10.1 Continual improvement and 10.2 Nonconformity and corrective action.	No need to renumber your procedures.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	
Throughout	Wording on documented information changed to "available"; "meet" compliance obligations.	No action needed beyond confirming evidence is available.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	

Ready for ISO 14001:2026?

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Talk to your GCC account manager about planning your transition audit.



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