

ISO 14001:2026 Transition Readiness Checklist

Use this quick checklist to gauge how prepared an organisation is to move from ISO 14001:2015 to ISO 14001:2026.

How to use this checklist

- *Tick Yes, No or N/A for each item.*
- *Use the notes sections to record actions, owners and target dates.*
- *Score 1 point for each Yes tick.*

Scoring guide

- *0-10 = high priority for transition work*
- *11-18 = on track but with gaps*
- *19+ = ready to speak to the certification body about transition timing*

1. Governance, context and leadership

- We have obtained and reviewed a copy of ISO 14001:2026.
- We understand the 3-year transition window and our certificate expiry date.
- Our context analysis (clause 4.1) has been updated to explicitly consider climate change, including physical and transition risks.
- Our context analysis (clause 4.1) explicitly considers natural resource availability, including energy, water and raw materials.
- Our context analysis (clause 4.1) explicitly considers biodiversity and ecosystems where relevant.
- Our list of interested parties (clause 4.2) includes stakeholders with climate, resource and biodiversity expectations, for example regulators, customers, investors and communities.
- Our EMS scope (clause 4.3) reflects a life-cycle perspective and clearly explains what is included and excluded.
- Our environmental policy has been reviewed and, where appropriate, updated to reference climate change, resource efficiency and ecosystem protection.
- Top management has been briefed on the key ISO 14001:2026 changes and their leadership responsibilities.

Notes / actions

Insert text here

2. Planning, risks and opportunities

- Our environmental aspects and impacts assessment has been refreshed to distinguish normal, abnormal and emergency conditions.
- Our environmental aspects and impacts assessment explicitly considers climate, resource use and biodiversity.
- Climate-, resource- and biodiversity-related issues are integrated into our risks and opportunities process (clauses 6.1.4-6.1.5 or equivalent).
- We have identified where climate change or nature-related risks could affect our legal and other compliance obligations.
- Our environmental objectives and plans have been reviewed to ensure they still make sense in light of the 2026 changes and new risks or opportunities.
- We have defined a structured approach for EMS-related change management under clause 6.3.
- Our change management approach covers how we plan, control and review changes that could affect environmental performance.

Notes / actions:

Insert text here

3. Operations, supply chain and emergency preparedness

Operational controls for significant environmental aspects have been reviewed and updated where necessary for climate, resource and biodiversity considerations.

Controls over externally provided processes, products and services have been strengthened, including environmental requirements in procurement and supplier management.

Our life-cycle perspective clearly covers relevant upstream and downstream stages we can control or influence.

Emergency preparedness and response procedures clearly distinguish between emergency situations and abnormal operating conditions.

Emergency preparedness and response procedures include appropriate planning for climate-related events, such as flooding and heatwaves.

Notes / actions:

Insert text here

4. Performance, audit, review and improvement

Monitoring and measurement includes indicators that reflect material climate, resource and biodiversity issues where applicable, for example energy, emissions, water, waste, land or habitat impacts.

Internal audit programmes and checklists have been updated to cover ISO 14001:2026 requirements, including climate, biodiversity, natural resources, supply chain and change management.

Management review agendas now include information on climate- and nature-related risks and performance.

Management review agendas include progress on the transition action plan.

A formal gap analysis against ISO 14001:2026 has been completed or scheduled, and the transition plan is documented.

The organisation has agreed with its certification body how and when the transition audit will take place, for example at surveillance or recertification.

Relevant personnel, including EMS coordinators, internal auditors and key operational staff, have received transition training or briefings.

Notes / actions

Insert text here

Summary score

Total Yes score: _____ / 28

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