

Certification Europe ISO 14001 Transition Policy

ISO 14001:2015 has been updated to replace the existing Environmental standard ISO 14001:2004. Organisations will no longer be able to continue to be certified to ISO 14001:2004 from the 14th of September 2018.

Certification Europe is accredited to certify organisations to ISO 14001:2004 and aims to be in a position to offer accredited ISO 14001:2015 certifications by January 2017. The organisation has embarked on an internal transition process in order to realise this objective.

In line with our internal transition process we intend to transition our existing ISO 14001:2004 client's certifications to ISO 14001:2015 within an agreed timescale commencing on 15th September 2015 until the 14th of September 2018.

Certification Europe has created this policy document to clarify the ISO 14001:2004 and ISO 14001:2015 certification process for current and future clients.

ISO 14001:2004 certifications will not be valid three years from publication of ISO 14001:2015.

The expiry date of certifications to ISO 14001:2004 issued during the transition period needs to correspond to the end of the three-year transition period.

All transition audits must be completed within 120 days of the transition end date of 14th September 2018. Thus, all transition audits must be completed by 14th May 2018.

While ISO 14001:2015 is similar in parts to ISO 14001:2004 there are some additional requirements that clients will have to meet before their Environmental management system can be deemed to be compliant with the ISO 14001:2015 standard.

As we want to make the ISO 14001:2015 certification process clear and smooth for current and future clients, we have developed a simple policy involving four different scenarios which can be applied to specific situations.

6-9 The Square

Stockley Park

Uxbridge

UB11 1FW

t: + 44 203 008 7820

f: + 44 203 427 3660

certificationeurope.com

twitter.com/certeurope

facebook.com/certificationeurope

Scenario A

- For existing clients currently certified to ISO 14001:2004 Certification Europe will audit against the ISO 14001:2004 requirements of the standard as per the planned surveillance audit schedule. Reference will only be made to the ISO 14001:2004 standard when reporting audit findings (nonconformities).
- Surveillance audits will continue to be conducted against the ISO 14001:2004 version of the standard (no later than September 2018) until the client is in a position to carry out their transition audit.
- On the day of the surveillance audit, the auditor will agree with the client a date in the future to carry out a transition assessment of the Environmental management system against the requirements of ISO 14001:2015. The time and number of additional days required will be agreed with each client for the transition audit to take place.

Scenario B

- For existing clients, Clients may continue to be certified to ISO 14001:2004 until the 14th of September 2018, unless their reassessment audit is due to take place prior to this date, at which point the Environmental management system will be recertified against the ISO 14001:2015 version of the standard.
- Certification Europe will contact each client for whom Scenario B is applicable and confirm the date of the reassessment audit and the amount of time required to conduct the assessment.
- At the end of the ISO 14001:2015 assessment, if the auditor is of the opinion that the Environmental management system is compliant with the additional requirements of the standard then a recommendation for transition of certification may be made, at the auditor's discretion, based upon the evidence observed during the audit.
- Findings from this assessment will be recorded in the surveillance audit report. If the auditor is not in a position to recommend transition of certification then a further assessment may be required depending on the nature of the issues requiring action. Any required action would be agreed between the auditor and client representative at the audit closing meeting.

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Scenario C

- For organisations that have developed an Environmental management system with a view to obtaining ISO 14001:2004 certification. Certification Europe recommends that you consider an assessment against the requirements of ISO 14001:2015 as certification to ISO 14001:2004 will not be provided after 31st March 2017.

Scenario D

- Any client / organisation that is in the process of being certified to ISO 14001:2004, but who now wishes to be assessed to ISO 14001:2015, should contact Certification Sales who will be in a position to discuss client requirements on an individual basis. Please contact Sarah Piggins via e-mail at spiggins@certificationeurope.com.
- Certification Europe aims to transition all existing ISO 14001:2004 certifications before the 14th September 2018. This should be taken into account by client / organisations as they plan activities for the maintenance and continual improvement their Environmental management system.
- Any further enquiries should be directed to Julia Coles via e-mail at jcoles@certificationeurope.com.

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