

Swiss Association for Quality and Management Systems (SQS)

ISO 14001:2015

# Certification of environmental management systems

### Incentive

Any company that wants to achieve sustainable success must align its strategy, efforts and results with ecological principles and demonstrate them credibly. ISO 14001 is ideally suited for this purpose. It defines globally valid criteria for efficient and effective environmental management systems. Introduced in 1996 as one of the world's first standards in this area, it has been further developed in several revisions - most recently in 2015. Since then, the proven standard also requires, for example, the consideration of external issues relevant to the organisation concerned and its stakeholders. By requiring that products and services are considered over their entire life cycle, it lays the foundation for circular solutions and thus for improved environmental performance. With its comprehensive approach to environmental management, ISO 14001:2015 is predestined to cover the environmental dimension of sustainable business management.

#### Outcome

ISO 14001:2015 forms the basis for a systematic orientation on relevant environmental aspects including concerned stakeholders. Such an environmental management system will help to minimise risks and to continuously improve the organisation. Those who demonstrably meet the requirements strengthen their credibility and image with customers, suppliers, partners and the public.

## Target groups

Companies and organisations of all sizes operating in all sectors.

#### Validity

3 years - in the sense of continuous development, a surveillance audit is carried out annually and a recertification audit after 3 years.





#### Recognition

The SQS certificate ISO 14001 is internationally valid and recognised worldwide. Its particular credibility is based on the one hand on the many years of experience and the cross-sector competence of the auditors, and on the other hand on SQS's membership of the International Certification Network IQNET. The SQS certificate ISO 14001 is internationally valid and recognised worldwide. Its particular credibility is based on the one hand on the many years of experience and the cross-sector competence of the auditors, and on the membership of the International Certification Network IQNET.

#### Combinations

ISO 14001 can be extended to an integrated management system in connection with ISO 9001 (quality management), ISO 45001 (Occupational Health and Safety Management), ISO 50001 (Energy management) or ISO 31000 (Risk management). Since the 2015 revision, it has been shown that the harmonised structure of these standards enables an efficient integration of an environmental management system into an existing quality management system according to ISO 9001.

#### Contact

Further general information can be obtained from our office in Zollikofen.

Our auditors are also available to answer queries on specific subjects.

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