



ISO 14001 : 2026 GAP ANALYSIS SELF ASSESSMENT

**DOING RIGHT BY THE ENVIRONMENT,
AND PROVING IT**

ISO 14001 helps you manage your environmental impact in a structured, defensible way, whether that's driven by regulation, customer expectations, or your own sustainability goals. This checklist works through the standard clause by clause, in everyday language, so you can see where your environmental management system is solid and where it needs work before pursuing certification.

HOW TO USE THIS TOOL

This isn't a formal audit, it's an honest self check. Work through each clause below and mark where your organisation genuinely sits today, not where you'd like to be. Use the notes column for anything you want to come back to.

- A** Already in place, documented and followed
- B** In place, but not consistently documented
- C** Informal or only partially in place
- D** Not currently in place

Note any actions arising from this review in the space provided or in your corrective action register.



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CLAUSE 4: CONTEXT OF THE ORGANISATION

4.1 Understanding your organisation and its context

- Have you identified the internal and external issues affecting your environmental performance, such as regulation changes, resource scarcity or community expectations?
- Have you considered climate change as a relevant issue for your EMS, including both how you affect the climate and how a changing climate affects you?

A	B	C	D
☐	☐	☐	☐
☐	☐	☐	☐

4.2 Understanding the needs and expectations of interested parties

- Have you identified interested parties relevant to your environmental impact, including regulators, neighbours and customers?
- Do you know which of their expectations are legally binding compliance obligations?

A	B	C	D
☐	☐	☐	☐
☐	☐	☐	☐

4.3 Determining the scope of the environmental management system

- Is the scope of your environmental management system clearly defined, and does it reflect your real activities, products and services?

A	B	C	D
☐	☐	☐	☐

4.4 The EMS and its processes

- Have you mapped the processes that make up your EMS and how they interact?

A	B	C	D
☐	☐	☐	☐

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CLAUSE 5: LEADERSHIP

5.1 Leadership and commitment

- Does leadership take visible accountability for environmental performance, not just delegate it?
- Are environmental considerations built into business decisions, not treated as an afterthought?
- Are the resources your EMS needs genuinely available?

A	B	C	D
☐	☐	☐	☐
☐	☐	☐	☐
☐	☐	☐	☐

5.2 Environmental policy

- Does your environmental policy commit to pollution prevention and compliance, not just a general statement of intent?
- Is it communicated and understood across the organisation?

A	B	C	D
☐	☐	☐	☐
☐	☐	☐	☐

5.3 Roles, responsibilities and authorities

- Are environmental roles and authorities clearly assigned and documented?
- Does someone have clear responsibility for reporting on EMS performance?

A	B	C	D
☐	☐	☐	☐
☐	☐	☐	☐

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CLAUSE 6: PLANNING

6.1 Actions to address risks and opportunities

- Have you identified the environmental aspects of your activities, products and services, and the impacts they cause?
- Have you determined which aspects are significant, and applied appropriate controls?
- Do you know your compliance obligations, including permits, licences and regulatory limits?

A	B	C	D
☐	☐	☐	☐
☐	☐	☐	☐
☐	☐	☐	☐

6.2 Environmental objectives and planning to achieve them

- Are your environmental objectives measurable and consistent with your policy and significant aspects?
- Is there a clear plan for achieving each objective, with resources and timeframes attached?

A	B	C	D
☐	☐	☐	☐
☐	☐	☐	☐

6.3 Planning of changes

- When you plan a change that could affect your EMS, such as a new site, process or acquisition, is that change managed in a structured way rather than being bolted on after the fact?

A	B	C	D
☐	☐	☐	☐

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CLAUSE 7: SUPPORT

7.1 Resources

- Do you provide the resources your EMS needs to function properly?

A	B	C	D
☐	☐	☐	☐

7.2 Competence

- Can you show that people whose work could cause a significant environmental impact have the right training?

A	B	C	D
☐	☐	☐	☐

7.3 Awareness

- Do staff understand the environmental impact of their role and the consequences of not following procedures?

A	B	C	D
☐	☐	☐	☐

7.4 Communication

- Do you have a clear process for internal and external environmental communication, including responding to complaints?

A	B	C	D
☐	☐	☐	☐

7.5 Documented information

- Is your environmental documentation controlled and kept current?

A	B	C	D
☐	☐	☐	☐

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CLAUSE 8: OPERATION

8.1 Operational planning and control

- Do you control your operations to manage significant environmental aspects, including a life cycle perspective on design, procurement and disposal?
- Do you manage the environmental risks contractors and suppliers bring into your operations?

A	B	C	D
☐	☐	☐	☐
☐	☐	☐	☐

8.2 Emergency preparedness and response

- Do you have a tested plan for responding to potential environmental incidents, like spills or emissions events?
- Have relevant people been trained in their role during an environmental emergency?

A	B	C	D
☐	☐	☐	☐
☐	☐	☐	☐

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CLAUSE 9: PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

9.1 Monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation

- Do you monitor and measure the environmental performance indicators that matter to your business?
- Do you have a process for evaluating your compliance with legal and regulatory obligations?

A	B	C	D
☐	☐	☐	☐
☐	☐	☐	☐

9.2 Internal audit

- Do you run internal audits of your EMS at planned intervals?
- Are findings followed through to corrective action?

A	B	C	D
☐	☐	☐	☐
☐	☐	☐	☐

9.3 Management review

- Does leadership formally review your EMS at planned intervals, with the right people involved?
- Does the review cover the status of actions from previous reviews, changes in external/internal issues and compliance obligations, performance data, and relevant risks and opportunities?
- Are the outputs captured as documented decisions and actions, including any changes needed to the EMS?

A	B	C	D
☐	☐	☐	☐
☐	☐	☐	☐
☐	☐	☐	☐

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CLAUSE 10: IMPROVEMENT

10.1 Continual improvement

- Do you actively look for ways to reduce your environmental footprint, not just react to incidents?
- Can you point to genuine environmental improvements over the past year?

A	B	C	D
☐	☐	☐	☐
☐	☐	☐	☐

10.2 Nonconformity and corrective action

- When a nonconformity or environmental incident occurs, do you investigate the root cause?
- Do you check whether similar issues could occur elsewhere?

A	B	C	D
☐	☐	☐	☐
☐	☐	☐	☐

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READING YOUR RESULTS

Mostly A's

You're in a strong position. A formal gap assessment will likely confirm you're closer to certification than you think.

Mix of A's and B's

Good foundations are already there. The main work is tightening up documentation and consistency.

Mostly C's

There's a clear pathway here, but it will take real effort. A structured gap assessment is the right next step.

Mostly D's

Some system building is needed before certification makes sense. AuditCo can help you build this from the ground up.

THE NEXT STEPS

How AuditCo supports your ISO 14001 : 2026 journey.

Once you've worked through this checklist, the natural next step is a formal gap assessment carried out by an experienced auditor.

AuditCo specialises in audit, not generic advisory, so you get a straight, practical read on where you stand against ISO 14001:2026 and what it will genuinely take to get certification ready.

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