



GABRIEL REGISTRAR

GABRIEL REGISTRAR'S TRANSITION GUIDANCE ARRANGEMENT FOR ISO 14001:2026 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (EMS)

Introduction

ISO 14001:2026 was published on 15 April 2026, replacing the 2015 edition. Seven changes across clauses 4 to 10 carry real operational weight. **The transition closes on 14 April 2029 the within three-years from the date of standard publication.**

The most significant changes in ISO 14001:2026 primarily relate to the clarification of existing requirements and a stronger emphasis on the context of the organization, particularly with regard to environmental conditions and their interrelationships. In addition, the linkage between environmental aspects, compliance obligations, and risks and opportunities is more clearly articulated – without fundamentally changing the structure of the standard.

Changes are moderate: alignment with climate imperatives, improved readability, better lifecycle perspective, and strengthened risk-based thinking. Annex A is also expanded to support implementation.

What new requirements have been introduced in ISO 14001:2026?

No entirely new fundamental requirements have been introduced in the new version. Instead, existing requirements have been refined and supplemented with stronger references to climate risks, greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity, the circular economy, as well as an enhanced life cycle perspective and consideration of influence.

Key themes include:

- Enhanced focus on climate change and environmental performance.
- Integrated lifecycle perspective and supply chain sustainability.
- Better alignment with Annex SL and reporting expectations.

Recommended transition approach

We aim to make your journey seamless by providing transition support that includes:

- Client focused transition checklists and gap tools to map current processes to the new ISO 14001:2026 requirements.
- Training and awareness sessions covering expected changes and implementation guidance.
- Internal audit and management review support to ensure readiness ahead of your formal audit.
- Transition-gap assessments with expert auditors to identify areas for improvement.
- Transition audits (stand-alone, surveillance combined or recertification) to move from 2015 to 2026 edition.



How to prepare

Organisations are encouraged to begin reviewing the new requirements as soon as possible. Key steps include:

- Understanding the changes introduced in ISO 14001:2026
- Conducting a gap analysis against current systems
- Updating processes and documentation where required
- Training relevant teams on the new requirements

Taking a proactive approach will help organisations continue to meet certification requirements while improving their environmental performance.

Transition Period

Organizations already certified to ISO 14001:2015 will typically be granted a 3-year transition period ISO 14001:2026 is officially published. During this time, they will need to:

- Review and update documentation and procedures.
- Conduct a gap analysis.
- Train key personnel on new and revised requirements.
- Update risk assessments and control frameworks.





Official Transition Period as per IAF MD required document

Under the decision of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), as set out in IAF MD required document, a three year transition period applies for migration from ISO 14001:2015 to ISO 14001:2026.

Gabriel Registrar (GRCIS) hereby inform all its clients to make transition plan for their organization's transition to fully occur prior to the transition timeline.

Time Duration for a Transition Audit

Transition Start Date	1st April 2027
Actual Transition End Date	14 th October 2028

Gabriel Registrar – Transition Cut off Dates for clients

Gabriel Registrar start date for conducting either Initial or Surveillance & / or Recertification audits for ISO 14001:2026 transition with 1 minimal audit manday for Gap assessment.	1st April 2027
CABs to stop all new certification to the previous version of the standard ISO 14001:2015	14 October 2028
Gabriel Registrar Cutoff Date for completion of transition audit for ISO 14001:2015 to ISO 14001:2026	14 October 2028
Certification for ISO 14001:2015 will no longer be valid after this date	14 April 2029

It is to be noted that for organizations that have already implemented standards based on HLS, Also, with 2026 version, organizations are also afforded more flexibility in terms of documentation requirements.

All EMS certified organizations must have a transition audit to confirm the implementation of the revised standard. The transition audit may be conducted in conjunction with an existing audit or may be a stand-alone audit.

If the transition audit is conducted in conjunction with an existing surveillance (i.e. transition surveillance) or recertification audit (i.e. transition re-assessment), additional time may be added to the audit duration in order to cover the new requirements/concepts introduced by ISO 14001:2026.

If a stand-alone audit is carried out for the transition audit, the duration be calculated on an individual organization basis.

Note: Specific audit duration for transition will depend on the actual situation of the organization including the organization's size and the complexity of the EMS.



Transition Timeline

There will be a transition period of 3 years commencing from 15-04-2026 to 14-04-2029.

GRCIS shall not accept new applications for certification to ISO 14001:2026 after 1st September 2028. GRCIS will commence assessments to be expected ISO 14001:2026 from 1st September 2026, onward for all new applications based on EIAC & UAF AB Accreditation prior approval.

Transition and update your EMS Certification

Any types of audits, the given non-conformances identified during the transition audit will require a corrective action to be submitted and approved by Gabriel Registrar. An updated ISO 14001:2026 certification will be issued based on the given corrective action approval.

Updated ISO 14001:2026 accredited certification will be issued, and the validity will be as follows:

Transition during surveillance:

The organization's existing '**Valid Until Date**' will be maintained. Means the existing certification cycle to be continue with same expiration of the certification.

Transition during re-certification:

Transition re-assessment – A new '**Valid Until Date**' will be issued for the renewed 3 year period.

Stand-alone transition:

The organization's existing '**Valid Until Date / Expiry Date of the certificate**' will be maintained.

Note: Guideline of Gabriel Registrar transition policy has been adhered with as per any IAF MD document and circulars of ABs EIAC & UAF Transition policy requirements.