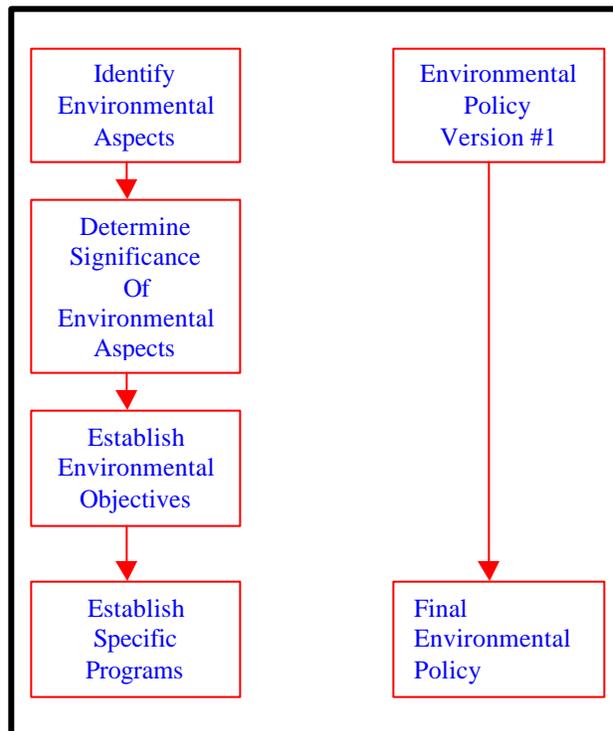


ISO 14001 PLANNING REQUIREMENTS (4.3)

In the ISO 14001 standard the planning phase of the standard follows the development of the Environmental Policy statement. However, it may be difficult to finalize the Environmental Policy statement until the planning phase has been completed. The planning phase contains four distinct steps: Environmental Aspects (4.3.1) determination, Legal and Other Requirements (4.3.2) documentation, Objectives and Targets (4.3.3) development, and Environmental Management Program (4.3.4) development. The development of the Environmental Policy statement may need to be an iterative process parallel to identification of the environmental aspects. The process used by an organization might follow the figure drawn below.



Don't be surprised if the development of the Environmental Policy statement evolves into an iterative process as pictured above.

Remember the organization's Environmental Policy statement must do the following:

- communicate the mission and core values with respect to the environment, and
- commit to control and improve environmental performance with respect to the significant environmental aspects of its products, services and/or activities.

In order for the Environmental Policy statement to be complete and functional it will need to be finalized after the Planning (4.3) analysis requirements have been completed. An iterative process will strengthen the Environmental Policy statement and the final environmental management system.