

ISO 14001 IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATION REQUIREMENTS (4.4)

In the ISO 14001 standard the implementation and operation phase of the standard follows the development of the Environmental Policy statement and the planning phase. This overall section of the standard discusses the necessary elements for the implementation and operation of the environmental management system. This section of the standard contains seven distinct elements: Structure and Responsibility (4.4.1), Training, Awareness and Competence (4.4.2), Communications (4.4.3), Environmental Management System Documentation (4.4.4), Document Control (4.4.5), Operation Control (4.4.6), and Emergency Preparedness and Response (4.4.7).

There is a basic question that needs to be addressed for each element within Section 4.4.

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| 4.4.1 | Structure and Responsibility
<i>Who does what?</i> |
| 4.4.2. | Training, Awareness and Competence
<i>Who needs to be trained?</i> |
| 4.4.3 | Communications
<i>What communication system needs to be established?</i> |
| 4.4.4 | Environmental Management System Documentation
<i>What level of documentation is needed?</i> |
| 4.4.5 | Document Control
<i>How do you keep current and accurate documents?</i> |
| 4.4.6 | Operational Control
<i>How do you insure that the operations are controlled properly?</i> |
| 4.4.7 | Emergency Preparedness and Response
<i>How do you plan and respond to emergency situations?</i> |

The Environmental Policy statement has been crafted and the Environmental Objectives and Targets have been established. Now the organization needs to implement and operate the environmental management system.