Increased awareness of sustainable development gives environmentally credible companies a competitive edge in national and international markets. ISO 14001 provides a clear management framework to reduce your environmental impacts and to ensure you meet legal requirements and build stakeholder trust. The standard provides your organisation with a systematic approach to planning, implementing and managing an environmental management system.

Independent assessment and certification of your environmental management system by DNV GL gives a clear demonstration of your commitment to environmental responsibility. An ISO 14001 certification will help your organisation be proactive in becoming more sustainable.

What is ISO 14001?
ISO 14001 is the most recognized international standard for environmental management systems. It is used worldwide by several hundred thousand companies. The nature of ISO 14001 allows it to be applied to the complete range of business sectors, scopes, and activities. It is a truly universal standard, which is one of its great benefits.

It provides a framework through which your organization can deliver environmental performance improvement and other intended results in line with the policy commitments. It specifies requirements for how to:
- Identify and understand the external and internal influencing factors affecting your organisation and the needs and expectations of interested parties.
- Identify and understand the environmental aspects of activities, products and services and associated environmental impacts considering a life cycle perspective.
- Understand how significant aspects and other risks and opportunities can be managed, implement necessary controls and set clear objectives to improve environmental performance.
- Manage your obligation to comply with applicable legal and requirements and other stakeholder obligations, and to regularly check the compliance status.
- Establish the environmental policy and objectives in line with your strategic direction.
- Continually improve the management system to enhance your environmental performance.

ISO 14001 is compatible and harmonised with other recognised management system standards, including ISO 9001. It is
therefore ideal for integration into existing management systems and processes.

**Why is certification good for my business?**
The potential benefits of ISO 14001 are numerous, but the most significant and tangible ones are that the standard enables your organization to:
- Build and operate an environmental management system within a well-defined and clear framework, which at the same time is flexible to your own business needs and expectations.
- Ensure that environmental management is integrated and aligned with the business strategies of your organization.
- Provide a tool for environmental performance improvement and the means to effectively monitor and measure environmental performance.
- Facilitate reductions in pollution, waste generation and unintended discharges to the environment.
- Improve your resource management, including use of energy, which may also reduce the cost of running your business.
- Better meet environmental legal compliance and corporate requirements.

Care for the environment improves the image and the competitiveness of your company. An ISO 14001 certificate proves that your environmental management system has been measured against the standard and found compliant. Many stakeholders, including regulatory authorities and customers, recognize the value of ISO 14001 certification, especially if the system has been externally assessed and certified by an accredited certification body such as DNV GL. Proof of a responsible approach has for many companies become a key purchasing criterion.

**How can I prepare for certification?**
It is important that you and your company are committed and set clear target dates for implementation and assessment. Companies that plan well will often have an advantage and be prepared for certification. This includes:
- Identifying environmental aspects of activities, products and services and other risks and opportunities.
- Identifying applicable legal requirements.
- Establishing objectives, targets, and improvement programmes.

Top management needs to take responsibility and express leadership and commitment to the environmental management system. Before certification starts, your company should perform internal audits to identify potential gaps. You may also contract a third party to perform a preliminary assessment. One of the most important things to remember is that development, implementation, and certification of an environmental management system is a continuous journey, with the certification audit representing one element of a continuous improvement process.

**Risk Based Certification™ – tailored to your company’s unique needs**
DNV GL’s Risk Based Certification methodology provides more value to your company through focused audits. We start by asking you to identify the most significant risks to your company’s sustainable business performance. In addition to measuring against the selected standard, we tailor the audit to address the identified risks. This is vital in helping you pinpoint key improvement areas.

By providing focused and structured information to top management on the organization’s ability to meet long term objectives, we offer more value than any other certification body.

**Why partner with DNV GL?**
Driven by our purpose of safeguarding life, property and the environment, DNV GL enables organizations to advance the safety and sustainability of their business. DNV GL is a leading provider of classification, certification, verification and training services. With our origins stretching back to 1864, our reach today is global. Operating in more than 100 countries, our 16,000 professionals are dedicated to helping our customers make the world safer, smarter and greener.

As a world-leading certification body, DNV GL helps businesses assure the performance of their organizations, products, people, facilities and supply chains through certification, verification, assessment, and training services. Partnering with our customers, we build sustainable business performance and create stakeholder trust.

*Risk Based Certification is a registered EU trademark of DNV GL AS.

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