ISO 14001 - demonstrate your organizations’ commitment to environmental health

ISO 14001 is the most recognised international standard for environmental management systems. It provides a framework for healthcare providers looking to identify and control their environmental impact.

**Why ISO 14001 for healthcare?**

While the main focus for healthcare providers is to deliver high quality care, there is increasing appreciation that such organizations impact the environment in many ways. Factors, such as building management, energy and water usage, antibiotic usage, laboratory work, construction work and handling of hazardous chemicals may generate emissions and waste. An efficient environmental management system helps you to control the environmental footprint related to all these activities.

ISO 14001 provides a systematic approach to planning, implementing and managing your environmental management system. Implementation allows your organization to control its environmental impact and ensure it meets legal requirements, both national and international.

**How ISO 14001 certification supports your organization**

The potential benefits of ISO 14001 are numerous, but the most significant and tangible ones are that the standard enables your organization to:

- Identify, understand and monitor the environmental impacts of your activities and the risks involved.
- Be aware of the organization’s direct environmental impact, as well as indirect impact through you suppliers.
- Implement necessary controls in order to manage all factors impacting the environment.
- Establish an environmental policy and objectives.
- Comply with applicable legal requirements and meet stakeholder demands.
- Continually improve your management system.
- Improve your resource management, including use of energy, which also may imply a reduction in the cost of running your operations.
- Facilitate reductions in pollution, waste generation, chemical handling and unintended discharges to the environment.
- Enhance your environmental performance over time.

One of the most important aspects of the standard is the inherent commitment to continual improvement. When you are certified to ISO 14001 you will not only confirm that your environmental management system meets the standard’s basic requirements and all applicable legislation. You also commit to a continuous process of improvement to ensure minimal environmental impact from your activities.
How do I get started?
Before starting the certification process it’s important that you and your organization are committed and set clear targets for the implementation and assessment of your environmental management system. These are important steps to get started:

- Get familiarised with the ISO 14001 standard. Training programs are available, and the standard can be acquired on iso.org.
- Identify all applicable legal requirements that you must comply with.
- Assess your organization to identify and understand all activities that impact the environment, and find potential gaps that you need to fill. Third party pre-assessments may prove valuable in an early phase of the implementation.
- Establish objectives, targets and improvement programmes and initiate actions to fill gaps.
- Ensure top management commitment. A good management system needs to ensure commitment from top level through to the entire organization.
- Engage an accredited certification body, such as DNV GL, to get started with the certification process.

Certification and continuous improvement of your management system is a journey. We perform yearly audits and re-certification every third year.

Risk Based Certification™ - tailored to your needs
DNV GL applies our Risk Based Certification methodology to provide more value to your organization through focused audits. We start by asking you to identify the most significant risks to your environmental 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, and allows you to focus on the areas that are most important to you. We tailor both the certification audits and the yearly audits. We help you improve in your focus areas, and will customise the audits as your risk landscape changes.

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

Why partner with DNV GL?
As a world-leading certification body with objectives to safeguard life, property and the environment, DNV GL is committed to support healthcare organizations improve patient safety. With operations in over 100 countries, we are uniquely positioned to serve the needs of the global healthcare community, having certified or accredited close to 2,400 healthcare organizations internationally.

DNV GL works with national healthcare authorities and healthcare providers around the world to effectively manage risk and improve healthcare delivery. Our healthcare activities are supported by a multidisciplinary research group based in Oslo that is committed to improving patient safety through collaborative research.

DNV GL’s team of healthcare and risk management specialist has an innovative, advanced approach to help healthcare providers globally achieve excellence by improving quality and patient safety through hospital accreditation, managing infection risk, management system certification and training.

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Training and other related services
Knowledge fosters an organization’s ability to embed standards and create lasting cultural change. Our goal is to help you to engage your organization in a process that supports continuous learning and improvement at every level.

We deliver trainings ISO 14001 that are tailore made for the healthcare sector, such as introduction to ISO 14001, internal auditor trainings, management review trainings and risk management. Contact your local DNV GL office to get an overview of what we can offer you locally.