

For companies with an existing Quality Management System that meets the ISO14001, Jodie Read explains that far from being onerous, companies can build upon existing systems to minimise the amount of effort required during the implementation phase

Adding ISO14001 to an existing QMS

Laying the Foundations

Two key areas where ISO14001 differs from ISO9001 is with the concept of Environmental Aspects and Legislation. Before attempting to detail what legislation may apply, it is necessary to understand how the business impacts on the environment in order to build the Register of Environmental Aspects.

Environmental Aspects

The register of Environmental Aspects should include details of all environmental impacts, taking into account normal, abnormal and emergency conditions. Whilst every business is different, typical topics to be considered within an ISO14001 system for the landscaping sector will include:

- Effluents
- Energy
- Fire
- Flood
- Hazardous substances
- Noise
- Paper usage
- Suppliers and subcontractors
- Traffic and transport
- Wastes
- Water

Legislation

Only once a company understands how it impacts on the environment can it hope to identify all of the relevant legislation. Working out what legislation applies can be tricky, especially when trying to take into account the requirements for multi-sited operations. Here are a few useful sites to take into account within the United Kingdom:

Websites for Environmental Legislation:				
www.legislation.gov.uk	✓	✓	✓	✓
www.environment-agency.gov.uk	✓	✓		
www.gov.uk	✓			
www.wales.gov.uk		✓		
www.sepa.org.uk			✓	
www.netregs.org.uk			✓	✓
www.epa.ie				✓

Once the relevant legislation has been identified, there is then a need to evaluate legal compliance. (Assessors will expect to see that companies have addressed any nonconformities relating to legal requirements prior to the initial certification visits).

Building on common ground

After developing the registers, there is a need to develop procedures. When taking a look at the standards, it becomes clear that there are a number of areas where the requirements are very similar. For instance, although there many topics that require mandatory procedures within ISO14001, anyone who has been assessed to ISO9001 will already have documented processes in place for:

- Control of documents
- Records
- Nonconformity
- Corrective Action
- Preventive Action
- Internal Audits

Other topics that usually have procedures after implementing ISO9001 include:

- Competence, Awareness and Training
- Management Review

All of these areas are equally relevant to ISO14001, so with a few minor amendments to reflect any items specifically required from an



environmental perspective a company already has several items in place, thereby freeing up time to focus on areas that might require new procedures to be developed (such as waste management or emergency preparedness, for example).

Checking and planning

With the procedures prepared, existing systems for internal audits and management review meetings provide the framework for checking the systems and planning future improvements.

ABOUT JODIE READ



Jodie Read is the Managing Director of Penarth Management Limited; a company which helps to make businesses better, greener and safer through the

provision of specialist consultancy and training for quality, environmental, health and safety management. She and her colleagues assist companies to implement and maintain management systems, such as ISO9001, NHSS18, ISO14001 or OHSAS18001. Jodie is also one of only a few approved ROLO trainers in the country. The company is an affiliate member of BALI and one of the first ever winners of the prestigious BALI Affiliate Award for Exceptional Service. If readers have any queries regarding continual improvement in business management systems, they are welcome to contact Jodie via e-mail: jodie@penarth.co.uk or by telephone on 029 2070 3328.