

# ISO 14001 2015 TRANSLATED INTO PLAIN ENGLISH

## 4. CONTEXT

### 4.1 UNDERSTAND YOUR ORGANIZATION AND ITS PARTICULAR CONTEXT

1	Identify and understand your organization's unique context.		An organization's <i>context</i> is its business environment. It includes all of the internal and external factors and conditions that have an influence on its EMS or could be influenced by it.
2	Identify and understand your organization's <i>external context</i> .		
3	Identify the <i>external issues</i> that are relevant to your organization's purpose.		
4	Identify and understand the external issues that could influence your organization's environmental management system (EMS) and the results it intends to achieve.		An <i>environmental management system (EMS)</i> is a set of interrelated or interacting elements that organizations use to implement their environmental policy, to achieve their environmental objectives, to meet their compliance obligations, to manage their environmental aspects, and to address their environmental risks and opportunities. These <i>elements</i> include structures, programs, procedures, processes, practices, plans, rules, roles, responsibilities, relationships, contracts, agreements, documents, records, methods, tools, techniques, technologies, and resources.
5	Think about how legal issues could influence your organization's EMS.		
6	Think about how social issues could influence your organization's EMS.		
7	Think about how natural issues could influence your organization's EMS.		
8	Think about how cultural issues could influence your organization's EMS.		
9	Think about how political issues could influence your organization's EMS.		
10	Think about how financial issues could influence your organization's EMS.		
11	Think about how economic issues could influence your organization's EMS.		
12	Think about how technological issues could influence your organization's EMS.		
13	Think about how environmental issues could influence your organization's EMS.		
14	Identify the <i>external conditions</i> that are relevant to your organization's purpose.		Think about how things like air and water quality, climate change, biodiversity, land use, and natural resource availability could influence your EMS.  Think about how things like air and water quality, climate change, biodiversity, land use, and natural resource availability could be influenced by your organization.
15	Consider the external environmental conditions that <i>could influence</i> your organization's environmental management system (EMS) and the results it intends to achieve.		
16	Consider the external environmental conditions that could <i>be influenced by</i> your organization.		
17	Identify and understand your organization's <i>internal context</i> .		
18	Identify the <i>internal issues</i> that are relevant to your organization's purpose.		
19	Identify and understand the internal issues that could influence your organization's environmental management system (EMS) and the results it intends to achieve.		
20	Think about how your organization's culture could influence its EMS.		

ORGANIZATION:		YOUR LOCATION:	
COMPLETED BY:		DATE COMPLETED:	
REVIEWED BY:		DATE REVIEWED:	
<b>SEPT 2015</b>	<b>PLAIN ENGLISH ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT STANDARD</b>		<b>EDITION 1.0</b>
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21	Think about how your organization's services could influence its EMS.		
22	Think about how your organization's products could influence its EMS.		
23	Think about how your organization's activities could influence its EMS.		
24	Think about how your organization's capabilities could influence its EMS.		
25	Think about how your organization's strategic direction could influence its EMS.		
26	Identify the <i>internal conditions</i> that are relevant to your organization's purpose.		
27	Consider the internal environmental conditions that <i>could influence</i> your organization's environmental management system (EMS) and the results it intends to achieve.		
28	Consider the internal environmental conditions that <i>could be influenced</i> by your organization's environmental management system (EMS) and the results it intends to achieve.		

### 4.2 CLARIFY THE NEEDS AND EXPECTATIONS OF YOUR INTERESTED PARTIES

29	Identify the interested parties that are relevant to your organization's EMS.		<p>In general, an <i>interested party</i> is anyone who can affect, be affected by, or believe that they are affected by a decision or an activity. In this case, it is a person, group, or organization that can affect, be affected by, or believe that they are affected by your environmental performance.</p> <p><i>Compliance obligations</i> used to be called "legal requirements and other requirements to which the organization subscribes".</p>
30	Identify those who are interested in your environmental performance.		
31	Determine the needs and expectations of your organization's interested parties.		
32	Identify those that are relevant to your environmental performance.		
33	Identify those that have become compliance obligations (requirements).		

### 4.3 DEFINE THE SCOPE OF YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

34	Clarify boundaries and think about what your EMS should apply to.		
35	Use boundary and applicability information to define the scope of your EMS.		
36	Consider your compliance obligations when you define your scope.		<i>Compliance obligations</i> are discussed in 4.2.
37	Consider your corporate context when you define your scope.		Your <i>context</i> was defined in part 4.1.
38	Consider how <i>external issues</i> could influence your EMS.		

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39	Consider the impact environmental conditions could have.		
40	Consider how <i>internal issues</i> could influence your EMS.		
41	Consider your physical boundaries when you define your scope.		
42	Consider your products and services when you define your scope.		
43	Consider your activities and functions when you define your scope.		
44	Consider your authorities and abilities when you define your scope.		
45	Consider your organization's ability to exercise influence and control.		
46	Define the scope of your environmental management system (EMS).		
47	Include all the products that fall within the scope (boundary) of your EMS.		
48	Include all the services that fall within the scope (boundary) of your EMS.		
49	Include all the activities that fall within the scope (boundary) of your EMS.		
50	Document the scope of your environmental management system.		This is "documented information". It must be controlled and retained or maintained.
51	Control the document that defines the scope of your EMS.		
52	Maintain your organization's EMS scope document.		

### 4.4 ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN AN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

53	Consider your organization's <i>context</i> when you establish and maintain its EMS.	An organization's <i>context</i> is its business environment. It includes all of the internal and external factors and conditions that have an influence on its EMS or could be influenced by it.  An <i>environmental management system (EMS)</i> is a set of interrelated or interacting elements that organizations use to implement their environmental policy, to achieve their environmental objectives, to meet their compliance obligations, to manage their environmental aspects, and to address their environmental risks and opportunities.
54	Consider your <i>external context</i> when you develop your organization's EMS.	
55	Think about how external issues could influence your organization's EMS.	
56	Think about how external environmental conditions could influence your EMS.	
57	Think about how these external conditions could be influenced by your EMS.	
58	Think about how external interested parties could influence your EMS.	
59	Think about your compliance obligations when you develop your EMS.	

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