

ISO 14001 Colloquium VII

Halifax Sept 2015

Update to AAC Conference Attendees

Colloquia

definition: a meeting at which specialists deliver addresses on a topic or on related topics and then answer questions relating to them.

Colloquia on ISO 14001 have been held bi-annually for the past 12 years.

Colloquium VII brought together experienced practitioners from across Canada, representing a variety of perspectives, to engage in discussion related to the ramifications of the revisions made to ISO 14001.

Topic 1 – Understanding & Accounting for Interested Parties

Additional emphasis on and explicit mention of ‘interested parties’ in the 2015 revision of the 14001 standard.

- 2004 referenced interested parties in s. 4.3.3 OTP/ s. 4.4.3 Communication and s. 4.6 Management Review
- 2015 references interested parties in s. 4.2 Understanding the Needs and Expectations – the organization shall determine the relevant interested parties/the relevant needs and expectations/which expectations become compliance obligations; s. 4.3 Determining the scope of EMS (availability); s. 5.2 Policy (availability); s. 7.4 Communication; s. 8.2 EP (communicate); s. 9 Performance Evaluation (communicate performance); s. 9.3 Management Review

Interested parties include those that ‘perceive itself to be affected’

Concept of ought to have known.

Topic 1 - Discussion:

Understanding the needs of interested parties goes beyond simply identifying them, especially when considering 'context'.

Role of social media - 2 edged sword

- can raise awareness, provide critical and timely input, but can also propagate misperception (where perception is often = reality),
- enables interested parties to self identify.

Whether it is a significant change depends on how organizations interpreted and implemented the old requirements.

The changes may lead to a more **proactive, formalised** process

Topic 2 - Ramifications of a Lifecycle Perspective

- ISO 14001:2015 revision discusses lifecycle explicitly and requires organizations to consider aspects from a lifecycle perspective.
- Prior revisions have introduced the concept of impacts associated with the product lifecycle, and stated that organizations *should* consider them.
- The planning process has been restructured taking into account the impacts of environmental activities, products and services more strongly from a lifecycle perspective.
- s. 6.1.2 'the organization shall determine the aspects of its activities, products and services considering a lifecycle perspective.'
- annex 6.1.2 when determining environmental aspects the organization is expected to give careful thought to the life cycle stages that can be controlled or influenced. Typical lifecycle stages include the acquisition of raw materials, design, production, transportation/delivery, use, end of life treatment, and final disposal.

Topic 2 - LCA - Operational Planning and Control:

s. 8.1 consistent with a lifecycle approach the organization **shall**:

- establish controls to ensure environmental requirements are addressed in design and development process for products or services considering each stage of its lifecycle’.
- determine its environmental requirements for products & services.
- communicate relevant environmental requirements to external providers.
- maintain documented information to extent necessary to have confidence that process(es) have been carried out as planned.

Annex 8.1 ‘the organization decides the extent of control needed within its own business processes (e.g. procurement processes) to control or influence outsourced processes or providers of products and services.’

Topic 3 – Aspects – Understanding Environmental Risks & Opportunities

The revision places stronger emphasis on risk management.

S 6.1.2 consideration of aspects needs to consider the LC

s. 6.1.4 the organization shall determine risk associated with threats and opportunities to give assurance that the MS can achieve its intended incomes, prevent or reduce undesired effects, achieve CI.

The organization shall maintain documented information of risks associated with threats and opportunities.

Discussion the concept of risk extends beyond risk to the environment, to include risk to the effectiveness of the MS.

Topic 4 – Contribution of Senior Management to an Effective Management System

The revised standard defines a more explicit role for top management in terms of providing active leadership and commitment in a number of key areas that support the development of EMS, implementation and associated culture required for CI.

Specifies specific responsibilities for top management.

s. 5 of the revised standard deals with leadership requirements for an effective EMS.

Senior Management Discussion:

If the system is integrated –then environmental requirements are aligned with enterprise requirements and prioritized and resourced accordingly.

For integrated systems O&T are aligned with and designed to contribute to the fulfillment of strategic direction. As such they are often tracked as KPIs.

The concept of delegation of responsibility not accountability is not new.