

2026	2015	Changes
4 Context of the organization 4.1 Understanding the organization and its context The organization shall determine external and internal issues that are relevant to its purpose and that affect its ability to achieve the intended outcomes of its environmental management system. <i>These issues shall include environmental conditions being affected by the organization or capable of affecting the organization, such as pollution levels, availability of natural resources, climate change, biodiversity or ecosystem health (see A.4.1).</i> 4.2 Understanding the needs and expectations of interested parties The organization shall determine: a) the interested parties that are relevant to the environmental management system; b) the relevant needs and expectations (i.e. requirements) of these interested parties; c) which of these needs and expectations become its compliance obligations (see 6.1.3) <i>and will be addressed through the environmental management system.</i> <i>NOTE 1 Relevant interested parties can have needs and expectations related to environmental conditions, such as pollution levels, availability of natural resources, climate change, biodiversity or ecosystem health.</i> <i>NOTE 2 The relevant needs and expectations of interested parties, other than legal requirements, become a compliance obligation when the organization decides to comply with them.</i> 4.3 Determining the scope of the environmental	4 Context of the organization 4.1 Understanding the organization and its context The organization shall determine external and internal issues that are relevant to its purpose and that affect its ability to achieve the intended outcomes of its environmental management system. Such issues shall include environmental conditions being affected by or capable of affecting the organization. 4.2 Understanding the needs and expectations of interested parties The organization shall determine: a) the interested parties that are relevant to the environmental management system; b) the relevant needs and expectations (i.e. requirements) of these interested parties; c) which of these needs and expectations become its compliance obligations. 4.3 Determining the scope of the environmental	Clauses 4.1–4.4 4.1: Expanded the environmental-context requirement. The 2026 text adds examples—pollution levels, natural-resource availability, climate change, biodiversity, and ecosystem health—and a reference to A.4.1; the shorter 2015 closing sentence is replaced. 4.2: Item (c) now states that compliance obligations will be addressed through the environmental management system and adds a 6.1.3 cross-reference. Two notes were added explaining environmentally related interested-party needs and when voluntary expectations become compliance obligations. 4.3: Item (e) now expressly covers control and

management system The organization shall determine the boundaries and applicability of the environmental management system to establish its scope. When determining this scope, the organization shall consider: a) the external and internal issues referred to in 4.1; b) the compliance obligations referred to in 4.2; c) its organizational units, functions and physical boundaries; d) its activities, products and services; e) its authority and ability to exercise control and influence <i>over the life cycle of its activities, products and services.</i> Once the scope is defined, all activities, products and services of the organization within that scope shall be included in the environmental management system. The scope shall be <i>available</i> as documented information and shall be available to interested parties. 4.4 Environmental management system To achieve the intended outcomes, including enhancing its environmental performance, the organization shall establish, implement, maintain and continually improve an environmental management system, including the processes needed and their interactions, in accordance with the requirements of this document. The organization shall consider the knowledge gained in 4.1 and 4.2 when establishing and maintaining the environmental management system.	management system The organization shall determine the boundaries and applicability of the environmental management system to establish its scope. When determining this scope, the organization shall consider: a) the external and internal issues referred to in 4.1; b) the compliance obligations referred to in 4.2; c) its organizational units, functions and physical boundaries; d) its activities, products and services; e) its authority and ability to exercise control and influence. Once the scope is defined, all activities, products and services of the organization within that scope need to be included in the environmental management system. The scope shall be maintained as documented information and be available to interested parties. 4.4 Environmental management system To achieve the intended outcomes, including enhancing its environmental performance, the organization shall establish, implement, maintain and continually improve an environmental management system, including the processes needed and their interactions, in accordance with the requirements of this International Standard. The organization shall consider the knowledge gained in 4.1 and 4.2 when establishing and maintaining the environmental management system.	influence over the life cycle of activities, products, and services. “Need to be included” becomes mandatory “shall be included.” The scope is now “available as documented information” rather than “maintained as documented information,” while remaining available to interested parties. 4.4: “This International Standard” is changed to “this document.” No substantive change to the requirement to establish, maintain, and continually improve the environmental management system.
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5 Leadership 5.1 Leadership and commitment Top management shall demonstrate leadership and commitment with respect to the environmental management system by: a) taking accountability for the effectiveness of the environmental management system; b) ensuring that the environmental policy and environmental objectives are established and are compatible with the strategic direction and the context of the organization; c) ensuring the integration of the environmental management system requirements into the organization's business processes; NOTE Reference to "business" in this document can be interpreted broadly to mean those activities that are core to the purpose(s) of the organization's existence. d) ensuring that the resources needed for the environmental management system are available; e) communicating the importance of effective environmental management and of conforming to the environmental management system requirements; f) ensuring that the environmental management system achieves its intended outcomes; g) directing and supporting persons to contribute to the effectiveness of the environmental management system; h) promoting continual improvement; i) supporting other relevant roles to demonstrate their leadership as it applies to their areas of responsibility.	5 Leadership 5.1 Leadership and commitment Top management shall demonstrate leadership and commitment with respect to the environmental management system by: a) taking accountability for the effectiveness of the environmental management system; b) ensuring that the environmental policy and environmental objectives are established and are compatible with the strategic direction and the context of the organization; c) ensuring the integration of the environmental management system requirements into the organization's business processes; d) ensuring that the resources needed for the environmental management system are available; e) communicating the importance of effective environmental management and of conforming to the environmental management system requirements; f) ensuring that the environmental management system achieves its intended outcomes; g) directing and supporting persons to contribute to the effectiveness of the environmental management system; h) promoting continual improvement; i) supporting other relevant management roles to demonstrate their leadership as it applies to their areas of responsibility. NOTE Reference to "business" in this International Standard can be interpreted broadly to mean those activities that are core to the purposes of the organization's existence.	Clauses 5.1–5.3 5.1: Item (i) is broadened from "other relevant management roles" to "other relevant roles." The note changes "this International Standard" to "this document" and "purposes" to "purpose(s)." Other requirements are substantively unchanged.
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5.2 Environmental policy

Top management shall establish, implement and maintain an environmental policy within the defined scope of its environmental management system that:

- a) is appropriate to the purpose and context of the organization, including the nature, scale and environmental impacts of its activities, products and services;
- b) provides a framework for setting environmental objectives;
- c) includes a commitment to the protection of the environment, including prevention of pollution and other specific commitment(s) relevant to the context of the organization;

NOTE Other specific commitment(s) to protect the environment can include: preservation or conservation of natural resources; sustainable resource use; climate change mitigation and adaptation; or protection of biodiversity and ecosystems.

- d) includes a commitment to **meet** its compliance obligations;
- e) includes a commitment to continual improvement of the environmental management system to enhance environmental performance.

The environmental policy shall:

- be **available** as ***documented information***;
- be communicated within the organization;
- be available to interested parties.

5.2 Environmental policy

Top management shall establish, implement and maintain an environmental policy that, within the defined scope of its environmental management system:

- a) is appropriate to the purpose and context of the organization, including the nature, scale and environmental impacts of its activities, products and services;
- b) provides a framework for setting environmental objectives;
- c) includes a commitment to the protection of the environment, including prevention of pollution and other specific commitment(s) relevant to the context of the organization;
- d) includes a commitment to **fulfil** its compliance obligations;
- e) includes a commitment to continual improvement of the environmental management system to enhance environmental performance.

NOTE Other specific commitment(s) to protect the environment can include sustainable resource use, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and protection of biodiversity and ecosystems.

The environmental policy shall:

- be **maintained** as ***documented information***;
- be communicated within the organization;
- be available to interested parties.

5.2: Opening wording is reordered but keeps the same requirement. Item (d) changes the commitment from “**fulfil**” to “**meet**” compliance obligations. The **note** adds preservation or conservation of natural resources and changes the examples to a semicolon-separated list. The policy must now be “**available as**” documented information rather than “**maintained as**” documented information. Other requirements are unchanged.

5.3 Roles, responsibilities and authorities Top management shall ensure that the responsibilities and authorities for relevant roles are assigned and communicated within the organization. Top management shall assign the responsibility and authority for: a) ensuring that the environmental management system conforms to the requirements of this document; b) reporting on the performance of the environmental management system, including environmental performance, to top management.	5.3 Organizational roles, responsibilities and authorities Top management shall ensure that the responsibilities and authorities for relevant roles are assigned and communicated within the organization. Top management shall assign the responsibility and authority for: a) ensuring that the environmental management system conforms to the requirements of this International Standard; b) reporting on the performance of the environmental management system, including environmental performance, to top management.	5.3: The title drops “Organizational.” Item (a) changes “this International Standard” to “this document.” Other responsibilities and authorities are substantively unchanged.
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6 Planning 6.1 Actions to address risks and opportunities 6.1.1 General The organization shall establish, implement and maintain (a) process(es) needed to meet the requirements in 6.1.2 to 6.1.5. The process(es) for 6.1.2 to 6.1.5 shall be available as <u>documented information</u> to the extent necessary to have confidence that they are carried out as planned.	6 Planning 6.1 Actions to address risks and opportunities 6.1.1 General The organization shall establish, implement and maintain the process(es) needed to meet the requirements in 6.1.1 to 6.1.4. When planning for the environmental management system, the organization shall consider: a) the issues referred to in 4.1; b) the requirements referred to in 4.2; c) the scope of its environmental management system; and determine the risks and opportunities, related to its environmental aspects (see 6.1.2), compliance obligations (see 6.1.3) and other issues and requirements, identified in 4.1 and 4.2, that need to be addressed to: ▪ give assurance that the environmental management system can achieve its intended outcomes; ▪ prevent or reduce undesired effects, including the potential for external environmental conditions to affect the organization; ▪ achieve continual improvement. Within the scope of the environmental management system, the organization shall determine potential emergency situations, including those that can have an environmental impact. The organization shall maintain <u>documented information</u> of its: ▪ risks and opportunities that need to be addressed; ▪ process(es) needed in 6.1.1 to 6.1.4, to the extent necessary to have confidence they are carried out as planned.	Clauses 6.1–6.3 6.1.1: The 2015 planning content is reorganized. General now points to new 6.1.2–6.1.5 and requires those processes to be available as documented information. Risk-and-opportunity planning moves to new 6.1.4; emergency-situation determination moves to 6.1.2.
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6.1.2 Environmental aspects

Within the defined scope of the environmental management system, the organization shall determine the environmental aspects of its activities, products and services that it can control and those that it can influence, and their associated environmental impacts, considering a life cycle perspective.

NOTE 1 A [life cycle perspective](#) includes consideration of the environmental aspects and impacts at each life cycle stage. The life cycle stages include acquisition of raw materials, design, production, transportation/ delivery, use, end-of-life treatment and final disposal.

The organization shall determine potential emergency situations ([see 8.2](#)), including those that can have an environmental impact.

When determining environmental aspects, the organization shall take into account:

- a) [normal and abnormal conditions](#);
- b) [change, including planned or new developments, and new or modified activities, products and services](#) ([see 6.3](#));
- c) [potential emergency situations](#).

The organization shall determine those aspects that have or can have a significant environmental impact (i.e. significant environmental aspects) by using established criteria.

NOTE 2 Significant environmental aspects can result in risks and opportunities associated with either adverse or beneficial environmental impacts.

The organization shall communicate its significant environmental aspects among the various levels and functions of the organization, as appropriate.

The following shall be available as [documented information](#):

- environmental aspects and associated environmental impacts;
- criteria used to determine its significant environmental aspects;
- significant environmental aspects.

6.1.2 Environmental aspects

Within the defined scope of the environmental management system, the organization shall determine the environmental aspects of its activities, products and services that it can control and those that it can influence, and their associated environmental impacts, considering a life cycle perspective.

When determining environmental aspects, the organization shall take into account:

- a) [change, including planned or new developments, and new or modified activities, products and services](#);
- b) [abnormal conditions and reasonably foreseeable emergency situations](#).

The organization shall determine those aspects that have or can have a significant environmental impact, i.e. significant environmental aspects, by using established criteria.

The organization shall communicate its significant environmental aspects among the various levels and functions of the organization, as appropriate.

The organization shall maintain [documented information](#) of its:

- environmental aspects and associated environmental impacts;
- criteria used to determine its significant environmental aspects;
- significant environmental aspects.

NOTE Significant environmental aspects can result in risks and opportunities associated with either adverse environmental impacts ([threats](#)) or beneficial environmental impacts ([opportunities](#)).

6.1.2: Adds a life-cycle-stage note. Considerations are revised to [normal and abnormal conditions](#), changes, and potential emergency situations, with a [new 6.3 cross-reference](#).

Emergency situations are separately determined with an [8.2](#) reference.

The note on significant aspects removes the labels “[threats](#)” and “[opportunities](#).” Required records are now “[available as](#)” rather than “[maintained](#)” documented information.

6.1.3 Compliance obligations

The organization shall:

- a) determine and have access to the compliance obligations related to its environmental aspects;
- b) determine how these compliance obligations apply to the organization;
- c) take these compliance obligations into account when establishing, implementing, maintaining and continually improving its environmental management system.

NOTE Compliance obligations can result in risks and opportunities to the organization.

The compliance obligations shall be **available as documented information**.

6.1.4 Risks and opportunities

When planning for the environmental management system, the organization shall consider:

- a) the external and internal issues referred to in [4.1](#);
- b) the relevant needs and expectations (i.e. requirements) of interested parties referred to in [4.2](#);
- c) the scope of its environmental management system referred to in [4.3](#);

and determine the risks and opportunities to the organization related to its environmental aspects (see [6.1.2](#)), compliance obligations (see [6.1.3](#)) and other issues and requirements, if any, identified in [4.1](#) and [4.2](#), that need to be addressed to:

- give assurance that the environmental management system can achieve its intended outcomes;
- prevent, or reduce, undesired effects, including the potential for external environmental conditions to affect the organization;
- achieve continual improvement.

The risks and opportunities that need to be addressed shall be **available as** documented information.

6.1.3 Compliance obligations

The organization shall:

- a) determine and have access to the compliance obligations related to its environmental aspects;
- b) determine how these compliance obligations apply to the organization;
- c) take these compliance obligations into account when establishing, implementing, maintaining and continually improving its environmental management system.

The organization shall **maintain documented information** of its compliance obligations.

NOTE Compliance obligations can result in risks and opportunities to the organization.

6.1.3: Core requirements are **unchanged**. A note on risks and opportunities is repositioned, and compliance obligations are now **“available as”** rather than **“maintained”** documented information.

6.1.4: New dedicated clause for determining risks and opportunities. It explicitly references 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 6.1.2, and 6.1.3; adds “to the organization” and “if any”; changes “prevent or reduce” to “prevent, or reduce”; and requires the resulting risks and opportunities to be available as documented information.

6.1.5 Planning action

The organization shall plan:

- a) to take actions to address its:
 - 1) significant environmental aspects determined in [6.1.2](#);
 - 2) compliance obligations determined in [6.1.3](#);
 - 3) risks and opportunities determined in [6.1.4](#);
- b) how to:
 - 1) implement the actions into its environmental management system processes (see [6.2](#), [Clause 7](#), [Clause 8](#) and [9.1](#)) or [integrate the actions](#) into other business processes;
 - 2) evaluate the effectiveness of these actions (see [9.1](#)).

When planning these actions, the organization shall consider its technological options and its financial, operational and business requirements.

6.2 Environmental objectives and planning to achieve them

6.2.1 Environmental objectives

The organization shall establish environmental objectives at relevant functions and levels, taking into account the organization's significant environmental aspects and related compliance obligations, and considering its risks and opportunities.

The environmental objectives shall be:

- a) consistent with the environmental policy;
- b) measurable (if practicable);
- c) monitored;
- d) communicated;
- e) updated as appropriate;
- f) [available as documented information](#).

6.1.4 Planning action

The organization shall plan:

- a) to take actions to address its:
 - 1) significant environmental aspects;
 - 2) compliance obligations;
 - 3) risks and opportunities identified in [6.1.1](#);
- b) how to:
 - 1) integrate and implement the actions into its environmental management system processes (see [6.2](#), [Clause 7](#), [Clause 8](#) and [9.1](#)), or other business processes;
 - 2) evaluate the effectiveness of these actions (see [9.1](#)).

When planning these actions, the organization shall consider its technological options and its financial, operational and business requirements.

6.2 Environmental objectives and planning to achieve them

6.2.1 Environmental objectives

The organization shall establish environmental objectives at relevant functions and levels, taking into account the organization's significant environmental aspects and associated compliance obligations, and considering its risks and opportunities.

The environmental objectives shall be:

- a) consistent with the environmental policy;
- b) measurable (if practicable);
- c) monitored;
- d) communicated;
- e) updated as appropriate.

The organization shall maintain [documented information](#) on the environmental objectives.

6.1.5: The former 2015 Clause 6.1.4 "Planning action" is renumbered. Its three action categories now cross-reference 6.1.2–6.1.4. Implementation wording allows [actions to be integrated](#) into other business processes.

6.2.1: "Associated compliance obligations" becomes "related compliance obligations." [The documented-information requirement becomes a listed objective characteristic](#): objectives shall be available as documented information rather than maintained.

6.2.2 Planning actions to achieve environmental objectives When planning how to achieve its environmental objectives, the organization shall determine: a) what will be done; b) what resources will be required; c) who will be responsible; d) when it will be completed; e) how the results will be evaluated, including indicators for monitoring progress toward achievement of its measurable environmental objectives (see 9.1.1). The organization shall consider how actions to achieve its environmental objectives can be integrated into the organization's business processes. 6.3 Planning of changes When the organization determines the need for changes that affect or can affect the environmental management system, the changes shall be carried out in a planned manner. The changes shall be managed to ensure that the organization can achieve the intended outcomes of its environmental management system. <u>NOTE 1</u> The need for change to the environmental management system can arise from internal or external sources. See A.6.3 for examples. <u>NOTE 2</u> Managing change is addressed in various requirements in this document. See A.6.3 for examples.	6.2.2 Planning actions to achieve environmental objectives When planning how to achieve its environmental objectives, the organization shall determine: a) what will be done; b) what resources will be required; c) who will be responsible; d) when it will be completed; e) how the results will be evaluated, including indicators for monitoring progress toward achievement of its measurable environmental objectives (see 9.1.1). The organization shall consider how actions to achieve its environmental objectives can be integrated into the organization's business processes.	6.2.2: No substantive change. 6.3: Entirely new clause requiring environmental-management-system changes to be carried out and managed in a planned manner so intended outcomes can be achieved. Two notes address internal or external sources of change and refer to A.6.3 for examples.
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7 Support 7.1 Resources The organization shall determine and provide the resources needed for the establishment, implementation, maintenance and continual improvement of the environmental management system. 7.2 Competence The organization shall: a) determine the necessary competence of person(s) doing work under its control that affects its environmental performance and its ability to meet its compliance obligations; b) ensure that these persons are competent on the basis of appropriate education, training, or experience; c) determine training needs associated with its environmental aspects and its environmental management system; d) where applicable, take actions to acquire the necessary competence, and evaluate the effectiveness of the actions taken. NOTE Applicable actions can include, for example: the provision of training to, the mentoring of, or the re-assignment of currently employed persons; or the hiring or contracting of competent persons. Appropriate <u>documented information</u> shall be available as evidence of competence. 7.3 Awareness The organization shall ensure that persons doing work under the organization's control are aware of: a) the environmental policy; b) the significant environmental aspects and related actual or potential environmental impacts associated with their work; c) their contribution to the effectiveness of the environmental management system, including the benefits of enhanced environmental performance; d) the implications of not conforming with the environmental management system requirements, including not meeting the organization's compliance obligations.	7 Support 7.1 Resources The organization shall determine and provide the resources needed for the establishment, implementation, maintenance and continual improvement of the environmental management system. 7.2 Competence The organization shall: a) determine the necessary competence of person(s) doing work under its control that affects its environmental performance and its ability to fulfil its compliance obligations; b) ensure that these persons are competent on the basis of appropriate education, training or experience; c) determine training needs associated with its environmental aspects and its environmental management system; d) where applicable, take actions to acquire the necessary competence, and evaluate the effectiveness of the actions taken. NOTE Applicable actions can include, for example, the provision of training to, the mentoring of, or the reassignment of currently employed persons; or the hiring or contracting of competent persons. The organization shall retain appropriate <u>documented information</u> as evidence of competence. 7.3 Awareness The organization shall ensure that persons doing work under the organization's control are aware of: a) the environmental policy; b) the significant environmental aspects and related actual or potential environmental impacts associated with their work; c) their contribution to the effectiveness of the environmental management system, including the benefits of enhanced environmental performance; d) the implications of not conforming with the environmental management system requirements, including not fulfilling the organization's compliance obligations.	Clauses 7.1–7.5 7.1: No substantive change. 7.2: Item (a) changes “fulfil” to “meet” compliance obligations. The evidence requirement changes from the organization retaining documented information to documented information being available. The note makes only minor punctuation/hyphenation edits. 7.3: Item (d) changes “not fulfilling” to “not meeting” the organization's compliance obligations. Other requirements are unchanged.
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7.4 Communication

7.4.1 General

The organization shall establish, implement and maintain the process(es) needed for internal and external communications relevant to the environmental management system including:

- a) on what it will communicate;
- b) when to communicate;
- c) with whom to communicate;
- d) how to communicate.

When establishing its communication process(es), the organization shall:

- take into account its compliance obligations;
- ensure that environmental information communicated is consistent with information generated within the environmental management system and is reliable.

The organization shall respond to relevant communications on its environmental management system. Appropriate documented information shall be available as evidence of the organization's communications.

7.4.2 Internal communication

The organization shall:

- a) internally communicate information relevant to the environmental management system among the various levels and functions of the organization, including changes to the environmental management system, as appropriate;
- b) ensure that its communication process(es) enable(s) persons doing work under the organization's control to contribute to continual improvement.

7.4.3 External communication

The organization shall externally communicate information relevant to the environmental management system, as established by the organization's communication process(es) and as required by its compliance obligations.

7.4 Communication

7.4.1 General

The organization shall establish, implement and maintain the process(es) needed for internal and external communications relevant to the environmental management system, including:

- a) on what it will communicate;
- b) when to communicate;
- c) with whom to communicate;
- d) how to communicate.

When establishing its communication process(es), the organization shall:

- take into account its compliance obligations;
- ensure that environmental information communicated is consistent with information generated within the environmental management system, and is reliable.

The organization shall respond to relevant communications on its environmental management system. The organization shall retain documented information as evidence of its communications, as appropriate.

7.4.2 Internal communication

The organization shall:

- a) internally communicate information relevant to the environmental management system among the various levels and functions of the organization, including changes to the environmental management system, as appropriate;
- b) ensure its communication process(es) enable(s) persons doing work under the organization's control to contribute to continual improvement.

7.4.3 External communication

The organization shall externally communicate information relevant to the environmental management system, as established by the organization's communication process(es) and as required by its compliance obligations.

7.4.1: The evidence requirement changes from retaining documented information "as appropriate" to appropriate documented information being available. Other changes are editorial only.

7.4.2: No substantive change; minor grammatical clarification adds "that" before the communication-process requirement.

7.4.3: No substantive change.

7.5 Documented information

7.5.1 General

The organization's environmental management system shall include:

- documented information required by [this document](#);
- documented information determined by the organization as being necessary for the effectiveness of the environmental management system.

NOTE The extent of documented information for an environmental management system can differ from one organization to another due to:

- the size of organization and its type of activities, processes, products and services;
- the need to demonstrate fulfilment of its compliance obligations;
- the complexity of processes and their interactions;
- the competence of persons doing work under the organization's control.

7.5.2 Creating and updating documented information

When creating and updating documented information, the organization shall ensure appropriate:

- identification and description (e.g. a title, date, author, or reference number);
- format (e.g. language, software version, graphics) and media (e.g. paper, electronic);
- review and approval for suitability and adequacy.

7.5.3 Control of documented information

Documented information required by the environmental management system and by [this document](#) shall be controlled to ensure:

- it is available and suitable for use, where and when it is needed;
- it is adequately protected (e.g. from loss of confidentiality, improper use, or loss of integrity).

For the control of documented information, the organization shall address the following activities, as applicable:

- distribution, access, retrieval and use;
- storage and preservation, including preservation of legibility;
- control of changes (e.g. version control);
- retention and disposition.

7.5 Documented information

7.5.1 General

The organization's environmental management system shall include:

- documented information required by [this International Standard](#);
- documented information determined by the organization as being necessary for the effectiveness of the environmental management system.

NOTE The extent of documented information for an environmental management system can differ from one organization to another due to:

- the size of organization and its type of activities, processes, products and services;
- the need to demonstrate fulfilment of its compliance obligations;
- the complexity of processes and their interactions;
- the competence of persons doing work under the organization's control.

7.5.2 Creating and updating

When creating and updating documented information, the organization shall ensure appropriate:

- identification and description (e.g. a title, date, author, or reference number);
- format (e.g. language, software version, graphics) and media (e.g. paper, electronic);
- review and approval for suitability and adequacy.

7.5.3 Control of documented information

Documented information required by the environmental management system and by [this International Standard](#) shall be controlled to ensure:

- it is available and suitable for use, where and when it is needed;
- it is adequately protected (e.g. from loss of confidentiality, improper use, or loss of integrity).

For the control of documented information, the organization shall address the following activities as applicable:

- distribution, access, retrieval and use;
- storage and preservation, including preservation of legibility;
- control of changes (e.g. version control);
- retention and disposition.

7.5.1: "This International Standard" is changed to "this document." **Other requirements are unchanged.**

7.5.2: The title is expanded to "[Creating and updating documented information](#)." Content is unchanged.

7.5.3: "This International Standard" is changed to "[this document](#)." The external-origin requirement removes a comma after "identified"; the access note is moved before that requirement. **No substantive control requirement changes.**

NOTE Access can imply a decision regarding the permission to view the documented information only, or the permission and authority to view and change the documented information. Documented information of external origin determined by the organization to be necessary for the planning and operation of the environmental management system shall be identified as appropriate, and controlled.	Documented information of external origin determined by the organization to be necessary for the planning and operation of the environmental management system shall be identified, as appropriate, and controlled. NOTE Access can imply a decision regarding the permission to view the documented information only, or the permission and authority to view and change the documented information.	
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8 Operation 8.1 Operational planning and control The organization shall establish, implement, control and maintain the process(es) needed to meet environmental management system requirements, and to implement the actions determined in Clause 6, by: — establishing operating criteria for the process(es); — implementing control of the process(es) in accordance with the operating criteria. NOTE Controls can include engineering controls and procedures. Controls can be implemented following a hierarchy (e.g. elimination, substitution, administrative) and can be used individually or in combination. The organization shall control planned changes and review the consequences of unintended changes, taking action to mitigate any adverse effects, as necessary. The organization shall ensure that externally provided process(es), products or services that are relevant to the intended outcomes of the environmental management system are controlled or influenced. The type and extent of control or influence to be applied shall be defined within the environmental management system. Consistent with a life cycle perspective, the organization shall: a) establish controls, as appropriate, to ensure that its environmental requirement(s) is (are) addressed in the design and development process for the product or service, considering each life cycle stage; b) determine its environmental requirement(s) for the procurement of products and services, as appropriate; c) communicate its relevant environmental requirement(s) to external providers, including contractors;	8.- Operation 8.1 Operational planning and control The organization shall establish, implement, control and maintain the processes needed to meet environmental management system requirements, and to implement the actions identified in 6.1 and 6.2, by: ▪ establishing operating criteria for the process(es); ▪ implementing control of the process(es), in accordance with the operating criteria. NOTE Controls can include engineering controls and procedures. Controls can be implemented following a hierarchy (e.g. elimination, substitution, administrative) and can be used individually or in combination. The organization shall control planned changes and review the consequences of unintended changes, taking action to mitigate any adverse effects, as necessary. The organization shall ensure that outsourced processes are controlled or influenced. The type and extent of control or influence to be applied to the process(es) shall be defined within the environmental management system. Consistent with a life cycle perspective, the organization shall: a) establish controls, as appropriate, to ensure that its environmental requirement(s) is (are) addressed in the design and development process for the product or service, considering each life cycle stage; b) determine its environmental requirement(s) for the procurement of products and services, as appropriate; c) communicate its relevant environmental requirement(s) to external providers, including contractors;	Clauses 8.1–8.2 8.1: The opening cross-reference is broadened from actions identified in 6.1 and 6.2 to actions determined in all of Clause 6. The outsourced-process requirement is expanded to externally provided processes, products, or services relevant to the intended outcomes of the environmental management system. The type and extent of control or influence now applies to those externally provided items. The documented-information requirement is reframed so the processes for 8.1 shall be available as documented information rather than the organization maintaining documented information. Other operational-control and life-cycle requirements are substantively unchanged.
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d) consider the need to provide information about potential significant environmental impacts associated with the transportation or delivery, use, end-of-life treatment and final disposal of its products and services. The process(es) for 8.1 shall be available as <u>documented information</u> to the extent necessary to have confidence that they are carried out as planned. 8.2 Emergency preparedness and response The organization shall establish, implement and maintain the process(es) needed to prepare for and respond to the potential emergency situations determined in 6.1.2. The organization shall: a) prepare to respond by planning action(s) to prevent or mitigate adverse environmental impacts from emergency situations; b) respond to actual emergency situations; c) take action to prevent or mitigate the consequences of emergency situations, appropriate to the magnitude of the emergency and the potential environmental impact; d) periodically test the planned response action(s), where practicable; e) periodically review and revise the process(es) and planned response action(s), in particular after the occurrence of emergency situations or tests; f) provide relevant information and training related to emergency preparedness and response, as appropriate, to relevant interested parties, including persons working under its control. The process(es) for 8.2 shall be available as <u>documented information</u> to the extent necessary to have confidence that they are carried out as planned.	d) consider the need to provide information about potential significant environmental impacts associated with the transportation or delivery, use, end-of-life treatment and final disposal of its products and services. The organization shall maintain <u>documented information</u> to the extent necessary to have confidence that the processes have been carried out as planned. 8.2 Emergency preparedness and response The organization shall establish, implement and maintain the process(es) needed to prepare for and respond to potential emergency situations identified in 6.1.1. The organization shall: a) prepare to respond by planning actions to prevent or mitigate adverse environmental impacts from emergency situations; b) respond to actual emergency situations; c) take action to prevent or mitigate the consequences of emergency situations, appropriate to the magnitude of the emergency and the potential environmental impact; d) periodically test the planned response actions, where practicable; e) periodically review and revise the process(es) and planned response actions, in particular after the occurrence of emergency situations or tests; f) provide relevant information and training related to emergency preparedness and response, as appropriate, to relevant interested parties, including persons working under its control. The organization shall maintain <u>documented information</u> to the extent necessary to have confidence that the process(es) is (are) carried out as planned.	8.2: The emergency-situation cross-reference changes from 6.1.1 to 6.1.2, and “identified” becomes “determined.” Minor singular/plural wording changes “actions” to “action(s).” The documented-information requirement is reframed so the processes for 8.2 shall be available as documented information rather than the organization maintaining documented information. Other emergency preparedness and response requirements are substantively unchanged.
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9 Performance evaluation 9.1 Monitoring, measurement, analysis, and evaluation 9.1.1 General The organization shall evaluate its environmental performance and the effectiveness of the environmental management system. The organization shall determine: a) what needs to be monitored, measured and analysed; b) the methods for monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation, as applicable, to ensure valid results; c) the criteria against which the organization will evaluate its environmental performance, and appropriate indicators; d) when the monitoring and measuring shall be performed; e) when the results from monitoring and measurement shall be analyzed and evaluated. The organization shall ensure that calibrated or verified monitoring and measurement equipment is used and maintained, as appropriate. The organization shall communicate relevant environmental performance information both internally and externally, as identified in its communication process(es) and as required by its compliance obligations. Appropriate <u>documented information</u> shall be available as evidence of the monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation results.	9 Performance evaluation 9.1 Monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation 9.1.1 General The organization shall monitor, measure, analyze and evaluate its environmental performance. The organization shall determine: a) what needs to be monitored and measured; b) the methods for monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation, as applicable, to ensure valid results; c) the criteria against which the organization will evaluate its environmental performance, and appropriate indicators; d) when the monitoring and measuring shall be performed; e) when the results from monitoring and measurement shall be analyzed and evaluated. The organization shall ensure that calibrated or verified monitoring and measurement equipment is used and maintained, as appropriate. The organization shall evaluate its environmental performance and the effectiveness of the environmental management system. The organization shall communicate relevant environmental performance information both internally and externally, as identified in its communication process(es) and as required by its compliance obligations. The organization shall retain appropriate <u>documented information</u> as evidence of the monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation results.	Clauses 9.1–9.3 9.1.1: The title adds a serial comma. The 2026 opening combines evaluation of environmental performance with evaluation of environmental-management-system effectiveness. Item (a) expressly adds analysis to what must be determined. The evidence requirement changes from the organization retaining documented information to appropriate documented information being available. Other monitoring, measurement, evaluation, equipment, and communication requirements are substantively unchanged.
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9.1.2 Evaluation of compliance The organization shall establish, implement and maintain the process(es) needed to evaluate if it is meeting its compliance obligations. The organization shall: - determine the frequency that compliance will be evaluated; - evaluate compliance and take action if needed; - maintain knowledge and understanding of its compliance status. <i>Appropriate documented information</i> shall be available as evidence of the compliance evaluation result(s). 9.2 Internal audit 9.2.1 General The organization shall conduct internal audits at planned intervals to provide information on whether the environmental management system: - conforms to: - the organization's own requirements for its environmental management system; - the requirements of <i>this document</i>; - is effectively implemented and maintained. 9.2.2 Internal audit programme The organization shall establish, implement and maintain (an) internal audit programme(s), including the frequency, methods, responsibilities, planning requirements and reporting of its internal audits. When establishing the internal audit programme(s), the organization shall <i>consider</i> the environmental importance of the processes concerned, changes affecting the organization and the results of previous audits. The organization shall: - define the audit objective(s), audit criteria and scope for each audit; - select auditors and conduct audits to ensure objectivity and the impartiality of the audit process;	9.1.2 Evaluation of compliance The organization shall establish, implement and maintain the process(es) needed to evaluate fulfilment of its compliance obligations. The organization shall: - determine the frequency that compliance will be evaluated; - evaluate compliance and take action if needed; - maintain knowledge and understanding of its compliance status. The organization shall <i>retain documented information</i> as evidence of the compliance evaluation result(s). 9.2 Internal audit 9.2.1 General The organization shall conduct internal audits at planned intervals to provide information on whether the environmental management system: - conforms to: - the organization's own requirements for its environmental management system; - the requirements of <i>this International Standard</i>; - is effectively implemented and maintained. 9.2.2 Internal audit program The organization shall establish, implement and maintain (an) internal audit program(s), including the frequency, methods, responsibilities, planning requirements and reporting of its internal audits. When establishing the internal audit program, the organization shall <i>take into consideration</i> the environmental importance of the processes concerned, changes affecting the organization and the results of previous audits. The organization shall: - define the audit criteria and scope for each audit; - select auditors and conduct audits to ensure objectivity and the impartiality of the audit process; - ensure that the results of the audits are reported to	9.1.2: "Evaluate fulfilment of" compliance obligations becomes "evaluate if it is meeting" them. The evidence requirement changes from <i>retaining documented information</i> to <i>appropriate documented information</i> being available. <i>Other requirements are unchanged.</i> 9.2.1: "This International Standard" is changed to "this document." <i>No other substantive change.</i> 9.2.2: "Programme" replaces "program." The 2026 text adds audit objective(s) to the items defined for each audit. <i>"Take into consideration"</i> becomes <i>"consider."</i>
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c) ensure that the results of audits are reported to relevant management. The following <u>documented information</u> shall be available: — the audit programme(s); — evidence of the implementation of the audit programme(s); — evidence of the audit results. 9.3 Management review 9.3.1 General Top management shall review the organization's environmental management system, at planned intervals, to ensure its continuing suitability, adequacy and effectiveness. 9.3.2 Management review inputs The management review inputs shall include: a) the status of actions from previous management reviews; b) changes in: 1) external and internal issues that are relevant to the environmental management system; 2) the needs and expectations of interested parties that are <u>relevant to the environmental management system</u>, including compliance obligations; 3) its significant environmental aspects; 4) risks and opportunities; c) the extent to which environmental objectives have been achieved; d) information on the organization's environmental performance, including trends in: 1) nonconformities and corrective actions; 2) monitoring and measurement results; 3) <u>meeting</u> its compliance obligations; 4) audit results; e) adequacy of resources; f) relevant communication(s) from interested parties, including complaints; g) opportunities for continual improvement.	relevant management. The organization shall retain <u>documented information</u> as evidence of the implementation of the audit program and the audit results. 9.3 Management review Top management shall review the organization's environmental management system, at planned intervals, to ensure its continuing suitability, adequacy and effectiveness. The management review shall include <u>consideration of:</u> a) the status of actions from previous management reviews; b) changes in: 1) external and internal issues that are relevant to the environmental management system; 2) the needs and expectations of interested parties, including compliance obligations; 3) its significant environmental aspects; 4) risks and opportunities; c) the extent to which environmental objectives have been achieved; d) information on the organization's environmental performance, including trends in: 1) nonconformities and corrective actions; 2) monitoring and measurement results; 3) <u>fulfilment</u> of its compliance obligations; 4) audit results; e) adequacy of resources; f) relevant communication(s) from interested parties, including complaints; g) opportunities for continual improvement.	Documented-information requirements are <u>expanded and separated</u> to require the audit programme(s), evidence of programme implementation, and evidence of audit results to be available, rather than simply retained as combined evidence. 9.3.1–9.3.3: The 2015 management-review clause is divided into <u>General, Inputs, and Results</u>. <u>Removed consideration of...</u> Inputs now specify interested-party needs and expectations that are <u>relevant to the environmental management system</u>, and "<u>fulfilment of compliance obligations</u>" becomes "<u>meeting compliance obligations</u>."
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9.3.3 Management review results The results of the management review shall include: - conclusions on the continuing suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the environmental management system; - decisions related to continual improvement opportunities; - decisions related to any need for changes to the environmental management system, including resources; - actions, if needed, when environmental objectives have not been achieved; - opportunities to improve integration of the environmental management system with other business processes, if needed; - any implications for the strategic direction of the organization. <u>Documented information</u> shall be available as evidence of the results of management reviews.	The outputs of the management review shall include: - conclusions on the continuing suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the environmental management system; - decisions related to continual improvement opportunities; - decisions related to any need for changes to the environmental management system, including resources; - actions, if needed, when environmental objectives have not been achieved; - opportunities to improve integration of the environmental management system with other business processes, if needed; - any implications for the strategic direction of the organization. The organization shall retain <u>documented information</u> as evidence of the results of management reviews.	“Outputs” becomes “results.” Management-review evidence changes from being retained to being available as documented information. Other required review inputs and results are substantively unchanged.
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10 Improvement 10.1 Continual improvement The organization shall continually improve the suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the environmental management system to enhance environmental performance by determining opportunities for improvement (see Clause 9 and 10.2) and implementing necessary actions to achieve the intended outcomes of its environmental management system.	10 Improvement 10.1 General The organization shall determine opportunities for improvement (see 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3) and implement necessary actions to achieve the intended outcomes of its environmental management system.	Clauses 10.1–10. 10.1: The 2015 general-improvement requirement and continual-improvement requirement are consolidated into a single continual-improvement clause. The 2026 text expressly links improvement opportunities to Clause 9 and 10.2 and requires implementing necessary actions to achieve the environmental management system’s intended outcomes.
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10.2 Nonconformity and corrective action When a nonconformity occurs, the organization shall: a) react to the nonconformity and, as applicable: 1) take action to control and correct it; 2) deal with the consequences, including mitigating adverse environmental impacts; b) evaluate the need for action to eliminate the cause(s) of the nonconformity, in order that it does not recur or occur elsewhere, by: 1) reviewing the nonconformity; 2) determining the cause(s) of the nonconformity; 3) determining if similar nonconformities exist, or can potentially occur; c) implement any action needed; d) review the effectiveness of any corrective action taken; e) make changes to the environmental management system, if necessary. Corrective actions shall be appropriate to the significance of the effects of the nonconformities encountered, including their environmental impact(s). <u>Documented information</u> shall be available as evidence of: — the nature of the nonconformities and any subsequent actions taken; — the results of any corrective action.	10.2 Nonconformity and corrective action When a nonconformity occurs, the organization shall: a) react to the nonconformity and, as applicable: 1) take action to control and correct it; 2) deal with the consequences, including mitigating adverse environmental impacts; b) evaluate the need for action to eliminate the causes of the nonconformity, in order that it does not recur or occur elsewhere, by: 1) reviewing the nonconformity; 2) determining the causes of the nonconformity; 3) determining if similar nonconformities exist, or could potentially occur; c) implement any action needed; d) review the effectiveness of any corrective action taken; e) make changes to the environmental management system, if necessary. Corrective actions shall be appropriate to the significance of the effects of the nonconformities encountered, including the environmental impact(s). The organization shall retain <u>documented information</u> as evidence of: ▪ the nature of the nonconformities and any subsequent actions taken; ▪ the results of any corrective action. 10.3 Continual improvement The organization shall continually improve the suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the environmental management system to enhance environmental performance.	10.2: The former 2015 Clause 10.2 is renumbered from 10.2 to 10.3 following removal of the separate “General” clause. The visible corrective-action requirements remain substantively the same, with editorial changes such as singular/plural flexibility for “cause(s).”
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