

consideration is given to the processes and controls in place to respond to incidents and mitigate any impact on the environment.

When determining environmental aspects and impacts it is necessary to determine whether the impact could lead to an emergency situation or a significant impact on the environment and if there is any legislation covering the impact to determine the overall significance of the environmental impact. With all environmental impacts identified there is then the requirement to establish whether the impact is controlled or influenced and what controls are in place / should be in place.

When considering environmental aspects and impacts it is also necessary to demonstrate that have taken a **life-cycle perspective**. The purpose of a life cycle perspective is to consider how environmental performance could be improved by considering if there are improvements that could be made beyond those directly relating operational activities such as improvements that could be made by other interested parties such as suppliers or customers and whether these interested parties could be influenced to achieve improvement. The life cycle perspective involves consideration from the very start (upstream) such as how raw materials required are extracted or energy generated right through to (downstream) final end of life disposal.

ISO14001:2015 Certification Audit

During an audit – the auditor(s) will be looking for objective evidence that each clause in the standard has been met and complied with.

As well as reviewing all the relevant clauses there are various other things you can prepare and have in place prior to the audit;

- Completed and up-to-date management review including setting / reviewing environmental objectives
- Completed internal audit(s) covering environmental management
- Evidence of waste management and associated records (complying with any mandatory record retention requirements)
- Check waste facilities being used correctly and waste streams segregated as required
- Environmental aspects and impacts assessment documentation
- Evidence of consideration of life-cycle perspective
- Evidence of compliance with applicable regulations including an up-to-date legal register
- Evidence of source of updates for environmental legislation / evidence of updates
- Evidence of roles relating to environmental management clearly identified
- Evidence of staff environmental awareness and emergency response training
- Evidence of monitoring, inspection and maintenance of emergency equipment
- Evidence of planning for potential emergency situations



To make sure everything you need is in place and ready for the audit consider using the **Certification Audit Checklist** which is available [online here](#).

Presenting evidence during the audit

For guidance on the audit process and how to prepare for the audit and an overview of the audit plan and the certification audit process please review the **Certification Audit Guidance** which is available [online here](#).

In an audit involving a site visit, the auditor will likely just view evidence in person, whilst asking questions, a site tour may also be conducted. For remote audits it is often requested that photographs / videos are submitted as evidence.

Further support

- Management system documentation & resources: isomanaged.com/alphazdocuments
- Remote support: isomanaged.com/remote-support
- ISO Consultancy: isoassured.co.uk/iso-consultancy