



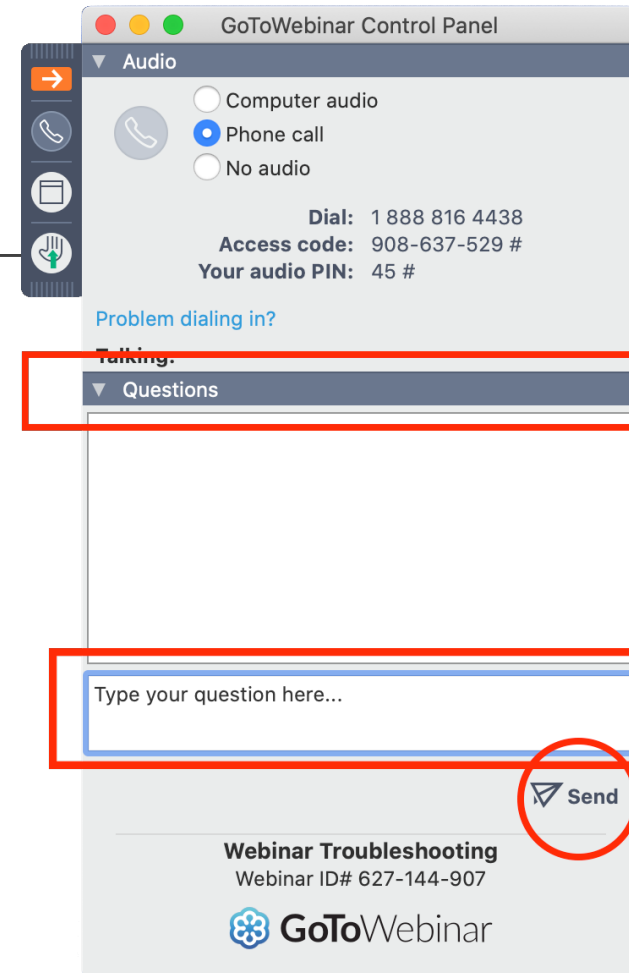
# ISO 14001:2026 Key Changes and Transition Plans

Presenter:  
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# Housekeeping

- All attendees are muted.
- Q&A after presentation – please use question tab.
- Slides and recording will be available at [www.pjr.com](http://www.pjr.com) after the presentation.
- Reach out to [pjr@pjr.com](mailto:pjr@pjr.com) with any additional inquiries.



# Agenda

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- Publication of the standard
- Tentative transition expectations
- Key changes affecting clients and Certification Bodies (CBs)
- Q&A
  - Please use the Questions tab to submit at any point during the presentation.

# Publication

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- ISO 14001:2026 was published in April 2026
- Licensed copies of the standard can be purchased directly from the ISO website.
  - [www.iso.org/standard/14001](http://www.iso.org/standard/14001)
- At a high level, the majority of the changes are not **significant**. They focus on clarifying existing requirements as well as incorporating other ISO requirements for the sake of consistency within management systems.

# Transition

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- Proposed transition timelines have been established by Global ACI:
  - All accreditations (which are the Certification Body programs) must be transitioned within 12 months from the publication of the standard. Accordingly, the deadline for transition of accreditation is **April 30, 2027**.
  - All transition activities, including certification of certified organizations, must be completed within three years of publication of the standard. Accordingly, the deadline for completion of transitions is **April 30, 2029**.
- Please note this is currently still in draft form, and the final transition documents are expected to be released during the summer of 2026.
  - Additional webinars and revised publication content will be forthcoming to capture any changes.
- To meet the above, PJR will ensure that all 14001:2015 certificates subsequently issued for recertification audits and new registrations expire on or before 4/30/2029.
- Auditor training and template revision details will follow.

# Key Changes

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- References were changed from “this International Standard” to “this document” throughout the standard.
- A handful of changes were made to definitions, including but not limited to:
  - clarifications of existing terms,
  - the addition of “stakeholder” as an alternative for or accepted in place of “interested party” (the preferred term),
  - a newly-defined “policy” term,
  - the removal of the definition of “outsource,” and
  - a revised definition for “indicator.”

# Key Changes (continued)

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- In several instances, verbiage is relocated within the standard sections, rather than representing new introduced verbiage.
- Section 4.1 introduces examples of potential environmental issues or conditions, such as: pollution levels, natural resource availability, climate change, etc.
  - Organizations are directed to reference A.4.1 for further support.
- Similarly, section 4.2 clarifies the existing intent that the organization's agreement to comply with the needs and expectations of interested parties (which may relate to environmental conditions, per the above) essentially turns those needs and expectations into compliance obligations, to be addressed within the environmental management system.
- Section 4.3(e) clarifies that the organization's consideration of scope, which was already inclusive of "its authority and ability to exercise control and influence," applies specifically to "the life cycle of its activities, products and services."

# Key Changes (continued)

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- Regarding environmental policy commitments that may be relevant to the organization's context, section 5.2's note features the following additional example: "preservation or conservation of natural resources."
- Section 6.1.1 has been reduced in length, with the majority of the contents moved to a new sub-section: 6.1.4 "Risks and opportunities." 6.1.4 houses clarifications of existing expectations, but no new expectations.
- Section 6.1.2 "Environmental aspects" now includes a note regarding what a life cycle perspective should include. The revisions to 6.1.2 relocate the requirement for the identification of "potential emergency situations" (previously housed within 6.1.1), and require the organization also consider "normal" conditions (where previously it only prompted for "abnormal conditions" and potential emergencies).

# Key Changes (continued)

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- A new section (6.3) titled “Planning of changes” has been added.
  - This section introduces more robust expectations than in ISO 14001:2015. The organization will need to develop a process for determining the potential impact(s) on the environmental management system prior to implementing relevant changes, and to use those determinations in the planning of the change implementation. The goal is to ensure the intended outcomes of the management system can still be achieved.
- In section 8.1, the previously-used term “outsourced processes” is referred now to as “externally provided process(es), products, or services” (as relevant to the intended outcomes of the environmental management system).
  - It also requires documented information evidence of the processes identified in 8.1.

# Key Changes (continued)

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- Section 9.1.1 introduces the term “analysed,” but is otherwise the same.
- Section 9.2.2 now requires the internal audit program be maintained as documented information, in addition to the existing requirement to maintain the audit results and evidence of implementation of the audit program.
- Section 9.3 “Management review” has been broken out into sub-sections and features some restructuring. However, the content is largely the same. Needs and expectations of interested parties are clarified to be limited to those that “are relevant to the environmental management system” (which could be argued was already implied in previous iterations). “Outputs” are now referred to as “results.”
- Section 10 (“Improvement”) has also been restructured. Section 10.1 is now titled “Continual Improvement” instead of “General.” It merges the requirements of 10.1 and 10.3 from ISO 14001:2015, and 10.3 has been removed as a result. The content or verbiage is not new.

# Key Changes (continued)

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- Annex A still contains guidance, and has been revised to reflect the changes. Since this portion of the document is not auditable, it will not be the focus of this review.
- Appendix B has been removed, which previously housed corresponding changes between ISO 14001:2015 and its predecessor ISO 14001:2004.
- While the Bibliography and Index also reflect updates, they will similarly not be the focus of this review.



# Thank you

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## Our Presenter

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