

ISO 14001 Internal Auditor

15 – 19 March 2027
Munich (Germany)

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Introduction

Environmental Management Systems EMS play a critical role in helping organizations manage environmental responsibilities, comply with legal requirements, improve sustainability performance, and reduce environmental risks. Internal auditing is one of the most important mechanisms for evaluating the effectiveness of an Environmental Management System and ensuring continual improvement.

This comprehensive training course provides participants with the knowledge and practical skills required to plan, conduct, report, and follow up on internal audits of Environmental Management Systems based on ISO 14001:2015 and the auditing guidelines of ISO 19011. Participants will learn how to assess conformity, identify nonconformities, evaluate environmental controls, and contribute to organizational sustainability objectives.

Through practical exercises, case studies, and simulated audit activities, participants will develop the competence required to perform effective internal audits and support environmental compliance, operational excellence, and continual improvement initiatives.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Understand the principles and requirements of ISO 14001:2015.
- Interpret the clauses of an Environmental Management System.
- Understand the auditing principles outlined in ISO 19011.
- Plan and manage internal audit programs.
- Conduct effective Environmental Management System audits.
- Evaluate environmental risks, aspects, and impacts.
- Gather and assess objective audit evidence.
- Identify conformity and nonconformity against ISO 14001 requirements.
- Prepare professional audit reports and corrective action plans.
- Verify compliance with environmental legislation and regulatory requirements.
- Support continual improvement of Environmental Management Systems.
- Contribute to organizational certification readiness.

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A graphic of a chessboard with several chess pieces (king, queen, rook, knight, and pawns) in gold and silver, set against a background of concentric circles.

Course Outlines

Day 1: Introduction to ISO 14001 and Internal Auditing Principles

- Overview of Environmental Management Systems and sustainability principles.
- Structure and requirements of ISO 14001:2015.
- Benefits of implementing an Environmental Management System.
- Environmental policy and leadership responsibilities.
- Context of the organization and interested parties.
- Introduction to ISO 19011 auditing guidelines.
- Principles and ethics of auditing.
- Roles and responsibilities of internal auditors.
- Auditor competence and professional conduct.
- Workshop on understanding ISO 14001 requirements.

Day 2: Audit Planning and Preparation

- Establishing audit objectives, scope, and criteria.
- Developing internal audit programs and schedules.
- Reviewing EMS documentation and records.
- Understanding environmental aspects and impacts.
- Risk-based audit planning techniques.
- Preparing audit checklists and working papers.
- Organizing audit teams and resources.
- Communicating with auditees and management.
- Preparing for opening meetings.
- Practical exercise on audit planning and preparation.

Day 3: Conducting the Internal Audit

- Conducting audit interviews effectively.
- Observation techniques and site inspections.
- Reviewing environmental records and documentation.
- Collecting objective audit evidence.
- Evaluating operational controls and compliance measures.
- Assessing environmental objectives and performance indicators.
- Verifying legal and regulatory compliance.
- Identifying audit findings and observations.
- Recording audit evidence and conclusions.
- Case study on conducting an EMS internal audit.

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A graphic illustration of a chessboard with several chess pieces. A large gold king piece is prominent in the foreground, with a silver pawn and a gold pawn nearby. The board is checkered, and there are concentric circles in the background.

Day 4: Reporting Audit Findings and Corrective Actions

- Classifying audit findings and nonconformities.
- Major and minor nonconformities.
- Root cause analysis techniques.
- Evaluating corrective and preventive actions.
- Preparing professional audit reports.
- Conducting closing meetings.
- Communicating audit results to management.
- Monitoring corrective action implementation.
- Verifying effectiveness of corrective actions.
- Workshop on audit reporting and follow-up activities.

Day 5: Continual Improvement and Certification Readiness

- Using audit results to support continual improvement.
- Management review and audit inputs.
- Measuring Environmental Management System effectiveness.
- Environmental performance monitoring and evaluation.
- Preparing for external audits and certification assessments.
- Understanding certification audit stages.
- Best practices in EMS auditing.
- Integrating EMS audits with other management systems.
- Building a culture of environmental compliance and sustainability.
- Comprehensive audit simulation and final assessment.

Why Attend This Course? Wins & Losses!

- Gain practical skills to perform ISO 14001 internal audits.
- Improve understanding of Environmental Management System requirements.
- Strengthen auditing, interviewing, and reporting capabilities.
- Enhance environmental compliance and risk management.
- Support continual improvement initiatives within organizations.
- Improve organizational readiness for certification audits.
- Contribute to stronger environmental governance practices.
- Develop professional competence as an EMS Internal Auditor.
- Learn through practical exercises and real-world case studies.
- Support sustainability and environmental performance objectives.

Conclusion

Internal auditing is a fundamental component of an effective Environmental Management System. It enables organizations to evaluate compliance, identify improvement opportunities, and strengthen environmental performance while supporting sustainability objectives.

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This course equips participants with the practical knowledge and auditing skills necessary to conduct internal audits in accordance with ISO 14001:2015 and ISO 19011. Through hands-on exercises and real-world applications, participants will be prepared to support environmental excellence, continual improvement, and successful certification outcomes.

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