ISO 14001 Lead Auditor

30 November – 4 December 2026
Amsterdam (Netherlands)

UK Trainig
PARTNER



ISO 14001 Lead Auditor

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Introduction

Environmental Management Systems EMS have become a fundamental component of organizational sustainability, regulatory compliance, and environmental stewardship. Organizations across all sectors are increasingly required to demonstrate effective environmental management practices while meeting stakeholder expectations and legal obligations. Auditing plays a critical role in evaluating the effectiveness of Environmental Management Systems and ensuring continual improvement.

This comprehensive training course provides participants with the knowledge and practical skills required to conduct first-party, second-party, and third-party audits of Environmental Management Systems in accordance with ISO 14001:2015 and ISO 19011 guidelines. The course also introduces participants to the auditing principles and techniques used during certification audits, enabling them to lead audit teams and assess EMS conformity effectively.

Through practical workshops, audit simulations, case studies, and real-world exercises, participants will develop the competencies required to plan, conduct, lead, report, and follow up on Environmental Management System audits.

Course Objectives

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

- Understand the principles and requirements of ISO 14001:2015.
- Interpret Environmental Management System requirements effectively.
- Apply auditing principles based on ISO 19011.
- Understand the audit process used in certification assessments.
- Plan and lead Environmental Management System audits.
- Manage audit teams and audit programs.
- Collect and evaluate objective audit evidence.
- Identify conformity, nonconformity, and opportunities for improvement.
- Prepare professional audit reports.
- Evaluate compliance with environmental legal requirements.
- Support continual improvement of Environmental Management Systems.
- Develop competence as an ISO 14001 Lead Auditor.



Course Outline

Day 1: Environmental Management Systems and Audit Fundamentals

- Introduction to environmental management and sustainability principles.
- Structure and requirements of ISO 14001:2015.
- Environmental policy and leadership responsibilities.
- Context of the organization and interested parties.
- Environmental aspects, impacts, risks, and opportunities.
- Introduction to auditing concepts and terminology.
- Principles and ethics of auditing.
- Types of audits: first-party, second-party, and third-party audits.
- Auditor responsibilities and competencies.
- Workshop on understanding ISO 14001 requirements.

Day 2: Audit Planning and Preparation

- Audit objectives, scope, and criteria.
- Developing audit programs and audit plans.
- Reviewing documented information and EMS records.
- Risk-based audit planning techniques.
- Preparing audit checklists and working documents.
- Establishing audit team roles and responsibilities.
- Communication with auditees and stakeholders.
- Preparing for opening meetings.
- Sampling techniques during audits.
- Practical exercise on audit planning and preparation.

Day 3: Conducting Environmental Management System Audits

- Conducting opening meetings.
- Interviewing techniques and auditor communication skills.
- Gathering objective audit evidence.
- Reviewing environmental documentation and records.
- Site inspections and observation techniques.
- Assessing operational controls and environmental performance.
- Evaluating compliance with legal and regulatory requirements.
- Identifying audit findings and nonconformities.
- Recording audit evidence and observations.
- Practical audit simulation exercise.



Day 4: Audit Reporting and Corrective Actions

- Classifying audit findings and nonconformities.
- Major and minor nonconformities.
- Root cause analysis methodologies.
- Evaluating corrective action plans.
- Preparing professional audit reports.
- Conducting closing meetings.
- Presenting audit findings to management.
- Follow-up auditing activities.
- Verifying effectiveness of corrective actions.
- Workshop on audit reporting and follow-up.

Day 5: Leading Audits and Certification Readiness

- Leading audit teams effectively.
- Managing complex audit situations.
- Audit program management.
- Understanding certification audit processes.
- Stage 1 and Stage 2 certification audits.
- Auditor decision-making and professional judgment.
- Best practices for successful Environmental Management System audits.
- Integrating EMS audits with other management systems.
- Continual improvement through auditing.
- Comprehensive audit simulation and final assessment.

Why Attend this Course

- Develop the skills required to become an ISO 14001 Lead Auditor.
- Gain practical experience in planning and conducting EMS audits.
- Strengthen auditing, interviewing, and reporting capabilities.
- Improve environmental compliance and risk management.
- Support organizational sustainability objectives.
- Enhance audit leadership and team management skills.
- Improve readiness for certification audits.
- Understand international best practices in environmental auditing.
- Increase professional credibility and career opportunities.
- Support continual improvement and environmental excellence.

Conclusion

Effective auditing is essential for maintaining a successful Environmental Management System and achieving continual environmental improvement. ISO 14001 Lead Auditors play a critical role in evaluating system effectiveness, identifying improvement opportunities, and supporting organizational compliance and sustainability objectives.



This course provides participants with the knowledge, skills, and confidence required to lead Environmental Management System audits in accordance with ISO 14001:2015 and ISO 19011. Through practical exercises and audit simulations, participants will be prepared to conduct professional audits and contribute to environmental excellence within their organizations.

