

# Halderstone



Training module

## Environmental Aspects & Impacts Assessment

Identify environmental aspects, evaluate impacts and significance, and maintain the assessment over time in an ISO 14001 context



**Does your aspects register sit unused and incomplete, leaving environmental decisions to guesswork?**

## Overview

Many ISO 14001 systems fail quietly at the "aspects" step: the register exists, but it is incomplete, overly generic, disconnected from operational control, or not maintained as processes, sites, products, and suppliers change. The result is predictable: controls target the wrong things, emergencies are treated as separate from normal operations, and improvement becomes reactive.

This module focuses on the ISO 14001-specific discipline of identifying environmental aspects, understanding associated impacts, and determining significance using defined criteria and a lifecycle perspective. It is not a risk-methodology module and does not teach generic risk frameworks; it applies assumed evaluation logic to ISO 14001 expectations and shows how to keep the assessment credible, traceable, and usable for control, preparedness, and improvement.



## Target audience

- People involved in designing, building, operating, or improving an EMS aligned with ISO 14001
- Executives and department heads accountable for the effectiveness and performance of an EMS
- Those responsible for processes, policies, assets, risks, and controls related to environmental management
- Auditors of ISO 14001 who want to deepen their understanding of management-side best practices (not audit technique)

# Is this module for you?

## It is a good fit for you if you...

- need a usable aspects and impacts assessment under ISO 14001.
- want clear significance logic linked to control and change.
- maintain an aspects register over time, not just for audits.
- need traceable links between activities, impacts, and controls.
- support audit-ready environmental decision-making.

## It may be less suitable for you if you...

- are looking for general environmental law or sustainability topics.
- want risk management methods beyond ISO 14001 expectations.
- expect technical environmental engineering solutions.
- already run a mature, stable environmental aspects and impacts process.

# Learning outcomes



## Key outcomes

- Define appropriate coverage for an environmental aspects and impacts assessment across activities, products, services and outsourced processes
- Identify environmental aspects for normal, abnormal and emergency conditions using a practical lifecycle perspective
- Apply significance criteria consistently, with clear rationale and traceability

## Additional capabilities

- Explain and document how aspects relate to environmental impacts to support control decisions
- Specify the minimum documented outputs required to keep the assessment usable over time
- Recognise common weaknesses and, for auditors, articulate expectations for assessing whether the process is current, complete and actually used

# Agenda

## **Purpose and boundaries of aspects and impacts in ISO 14001**

How the aspects and impacts assessment supports operational control, preparedness, and improvement

## **Define the assessment unit and coverage**

How activities, products, services, sites, and outsourced processes are defined for assessment, including normal, abnormal, and possible emergency conditions

## **Identify environmental aspects with a lifecycle perspective**

How environmental aspects are identified across the lifecycle where the organisation can realistically influence or control outcomes

## **Link aspects to impacts and significance**

How aspects are connected to environmental impact pathways and how a consistent, defensible logic is applied to determine significance

## **Compliance obligations and other constraints as inputs**

How legal and other obligations are used as mandatory inputs to significance decisions and control priorities without building parallel compliance registers

## **Documented outputs and maintenance over time**

How sufficient documented information is defined and how the assessment is kept current through change and management routines

## **Audit perspective: what auditors look for**

How to demonstrate that the assessment is complete, current, used, and connected to controls and decisions

## **Case-based workshop**

Applying the learned concepts, methods, and approaches in a realistic case setting

# Included materials



## Learning materials

- Slide deck
- Participant workbook

## Templates & tools

- Aspects & impacts process
- Significance criteria quality checklist
- Aspects & impacts register example
- Aspect-to-control-linkage map example
- Supporting AI prompt set

## Confirmation

- Confirmation of participation

# Preparation guidance

## Assumed background

This module assumes general familiarity with management system concepts and the idea of documented information.

Participants should be comfortable working with:

- Basic process descriptions (activities, inputs/outputs, interfaces, outsourced processes)
- Using defined criteria to make consistent evaluations (the generic method is assumed, not taught)

## Preparatory modules

### Foundation (depending on background)

Useful if you are new to the underlying concepts

- Risk Management

### Supporting (optional)

Helpful but not required to participate effectively

- System Framing
- Documentation & Knowledge Management

# Logistics



## Available languages

- English
- German

## Standard delivery options

- Virtual live teaching
- Blended learning (e-learning + live)

## Bespoke delivery options

- On-site delivery at your place
- Content adapted to your organization



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