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# Explanation ISO 14001 Environmental Performance Scale

*We at SCCM are convinced - and our experience has proven - that any organization, large or small, will achieve better environmental performance by using the 'plan-do-check-act' approach outlined in the ISO 14001 standard.*

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# Explanation ISO 14001 Environmental Performance Scale

The ISO 14001 Environmental Performance Scale tool has been developed by SCCM to help organisations to obtain a good understanding of the environmental performance with 24 questions. By answering these questions, organisations can see at a glance where they stand, what their strengths and weaknesses are and where the environmental opportunities lie. It is a helpful tool, and organisations can freely choose whether they use the instrument or not.

## ISO 14001 Environmental Performance Scale background and objective

With the introduction of ISO 14001, an organisation commits itself to the continuous improvement of its environmental performance. What is lacking in the ISO 14001 standard is a tool to make these environmental performances visible. What makes this difficult is that the environmental performance of an organisation is a combination of a number of very different factors. The goal of the Environmental Performance Scale is to link and validate the factors that determine the environmental performance. The 24 questions are divided into four perspectives: products/services, supply chain, means of production/facilities and process control/safety.

## The Environmental Performance Scale in relation to the ISO 14001 standard

An organisation can use the Environmental Performance Scale to implement the following elements of the ISO 14001 standard:

- **Context analysis (section 4.1):** The four perspectives and the related questions in the Environmental Performance Scale can be used as a checklist for assessing developments and the wishes of stakeholders.
- **Planning actions (6.1.4) and environmental objectives (6.2.1):** The Environmental Performance Scale provides insights into strengths and weaknesses in terms of environmental performance. The management can base choices on these insights and link concrete objectives to them. The answers to the questions in the Environmental Performance Scale can be converted directly into objectives.
- **Awareness (7.3):** The involvement of both management and employees is very important for the operation of the environmental management system. By having employees at different levels of the organisation complete the Environmental Performance Scale, the Environmental Performance Scale can increase awareness of the organisation's objectives.
- **Communication (7.4):** The subjects that the environmental management system focuses on cover a broad field. This makes it difficult to establish an overview of what the environmental policy is aimed at. The Environmental Performance Scale links the various points of view and provides a clear overall picture that can be used for both internal and external communication.
- **Management review (9.3) and continuous improvement (10.3):** The development of environmental performance must be considered during the management review. The results of the Environmental Performance Scale can be used as input for the management review and to define new objectives.

## The Environmental Performance Scale in relation to certification

The Environmental Performance Scale is intended as an internal tool for the development and execution of the environmental policy. ISO 14001 certified organisations can freely choose whether they use the instrument or not. Certification bodies assess whether the ISO 14001 standard has been met. It does not make a difference to the certification body whether the organisation has used the Environmental Performance Scale as an aid or internal checklist, the organisation will still be assessed in the same way.

However, if an organisation decides to communicate the results of the Environmental Performance Scale externally, the certification body will pay attention to the way in which the Environmental Performance Scale has been carried out. The ISO 14001 standard requires all communicated information to be valid and reliable. Therefore, the organisation must be able to substantiate the answers given in the Environmental Performance Scale. The certification body will assess the implementation of the Environmental Performance Scale in more detail by means of random sampling, in the same way as they audit the implementation of the communication.

## How to complete the 14001 Environmental Performance Scale

An important potential added value of the Environmental Performance Scale is that it can provide focus and support for the policy. Strategic decisions are often needed to structurally raise environmental performance to a higher level. This means that the risks and opportunities must also be considered from different angles. Involving several people in the elaboration of the Environmental Performance Scale creates a common vision of the strengths and weaknesses of the environmental policy. This is the basis for making the choices that lead to a better environmental performance.

In addition to people from the 'QHSE/environmental corner', the involvement of people from the following fields could be considered:

- Management
- Operational management
- Trade/sales
- Purchasing
- Finance
- Technical services

There are several options for answering the questions in the Environmental Performance Scale:

- Multiple people answer the questions. The results are then compared. If the answers are not far apart, the average can be calculated. If the answers are very different, they are discussed. It is important that the motivation is also recorded in the 'explanation' column. Thus, the answers are clear for everyone when the Environmental Performance Scale is repeated or read by others.
- One person completes the Environmental Performance Scale. The result is then discussed in a group.
- The questions in the Environmental Performance Scale are answered jointly during a meeting.

The intention is ultimately to establish one version of the Environmental Performance Scale for the organisation in which there is consensus on how the questions are answered.

**TIP!** Have all participants indicate in advance how they rate (leader, frontrunner, follower, or straggler) their own organisation on the four perspectives (products/services, supply chain, means of production/facilities and process control/safety).

## Frequency of completing the ISO 14001 Environmental Performance Scale

To enable monitoring of the development of performance, it is important to regularly update the Environmental Performance Scale. The most logical way to do this is with a frequency of 1-3 years. The chosen frequency depends on:

- the speed of changes in the business environment. Various questions in the Environmental Performance Scale relate to performance with respect to what is happening in this area. If, for example, new technology becomes available, this means that the technological field will change and as such, so will the scores regarding technology;
- the speed with which the performance of the organisation itself changes and therefore also the scores;
- the alignment with the own policy cycle.

## Explanation of the method of questioning in the ISO 14001 Environmental Performance Scale

### General

To make answering easier, the possible answers are similar for all questions. 'The extent to which' the situation described applies to the organisation is requested in most answers. It is also indicated on the basis of what information this 'extent to which' can be determined. This may be a % of the turnover or the number of customers.

Below is an example with common answering options. The number and distribution of points can differ per question.

None (0) - 0

Very small share (<10%) - 1 point

Small share (11-30%) - 2 points

Reasonable share (31-59%) - 4 points

Large share (60-84%) - 7 points

Very large share (85-99%) - 8 points

All (100%) - 10 points

An organisation can choose whether the answer is determined by calculating the percentage on the basis of, for example, turnover figures or whether the answer is determined on the basis of an estimate. If the 'estimation method' is adopted, it is important that multiple people within the organisation are involved in order for the estimate to be sufficiently accurate and reliable. See also the explanation under 'method of completion'.

### **Difference between ‘insight’, ‘plans’ and ‘results’**

Improving environmental performance starts with having a good ‘understanding’ of one’s own situation and the opportunities for making improvements. The next step is to prepare the realisation of the improvements with concrete plans. Subsequently these plans are executed. These steps are also reflected in the Environmental Performance Scale. Having a good understanding and the presence of concrete plans is also appreciated. Naturally, the score increases with the extent to which improvements have actually been made.

### **Questions that may not be applicable**

Two of the 24 questions can be marked as ‘not applicable’. This is the case, for example, when asked about the R&D budget and the commitment to improving environmental performance. As R&D is not available in all organisations, this question may be marked as ‘not applicable’. Entering ‘100’ in the Excel sheet automatically includes this in the calculation of the score.

# Explanation of the questions in the ISO 14001 Environmental Performance Scale

EPS QUESTION	EXPLANATION WITH EXAMPLES PER INDUSTRY						
1a Understanding of possibilities for improving products/services	<p>This concerns improvements to a product or service that can also be noticed by the customer/user. The following questions address, for example, opportunities for improving the process that have no consequences for the product or service. The understanding of the possibilities for improving the product or service must have such depth that their feasibility can also be tested (technically/economically) and plans for realisation can be linked to this directly. A general idea of 'we could use other raw materials' is insufficient. It should be known which raw materials could be replaced, what the replacement raw materials are and what the consequences are (costs, technical feasibility, etc.).</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Educational institution: → Environment in curriculum study → Form of education that requires less travel and/or space, for example</td> <td>Accountant: → Services that require less travel → Consideration of the environment in customer evaluation/advice, such as linking environmental figures to annual accounts</td> <td>Cleaning company: → Cleaning programme/method with less water/resources → Planning in such a way that less travel is required</td> <td>Engineering firm: → Design based on circular principles/providing alternatives for circular solutions → Method of coordination and possible supervision of the execution with as little travel as possible</td> <td>Construction company: → Offering sustainable/circular building materials → Use of construction methods that allow for circularity → Building methods (including planning) that are energy-efficient</td> <td>Trailer manufacturer: → Trailer is made entirely from recycled metal/plastic and FSC certified wood. The origin of all materials is known → Streamlining and resistance for saving fuel → The lifespan is extended by ...</td> </tr> </table> <p>Criterion: → % of the number of studies for which there is complete insight, for example → % of students affected by the effects, for example</p> <p>Criterion: → % of turnover where insightful services can be offered, for example</p>	Educational institution: → Environment in curriculum study → Form of education that requires less travel and/or space, for example	Accountant: → Services that require less travel → Consideration of the environment in customer evaluation/advice, such as linking environmental figures to annual accounts	Cleaning company: → Cleaning programme/method with less water/resources → Planning in such a way that less travel is required	Engineering firm: → Design based on circular principles/providing alternatives for circular solutions → Method of coordination and possible supervision of the execution with as little travel as possible	Construction company: → Offering sustainable/circular building materials → Use of construction methods that allow for circularity → Building methods (including planning) that are energy-efficient	Trailer manufacturer: → Trailer is made entirely from recycled metal/plastic and FSC certified wood. The origin of all materials is known → Streamlining and resistance for saving fuel → The lifespan is extended by ...
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1b Development of products/services is anchored in concrete plans	<p>The organisation's development of products/services that are improved from an environmental point of view is anchored in concrete plans. These improvements are related to the inventory in 1a, improvements that the customer/business contact notices (this may also be because the product becomes more expensive due to a different process or raw material being used). Other improvements are addressed in the following questions. This can be, for example, by establishing that the organisation is working on making products/services 'circular', etc. It is important that the strategy is formulated in such a way that the management can be called to account.</p> <p><b>Explanation score</b></p> <p>This concerns the share of the products or services for which concrete actions have been initiated to make improvements. The size of the share can be determined on the basis of, for example, the existing turnover, numbers (in the case of education, for example, of students).</p> <p>Budget for the development of new products/services</p> <p>The development of products/services requires time from personnel and, depending on the nature of the products/services, it needs resources to carry out research, product testing, etc.</p> <p><b>Explanation score</b></p> <p>To what extent has this budget already been reserved in the budget for the current year and next year? The budget may also consist of time reserved for personnel to carry out projects for improvements.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Educational institution:</td> <td>Accountant:</td> <td>Cleaning company:</td> <td>Engineering firm:</td> <td>Construction company:</td> <td>Trailer manufacturer:</td> </tr> </table>	Educational institution:	Accountant:	Cleaning company:	Engineering firm:	Construction company:	Trailer manufacturer:
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Involvement of management	<p>The involvement of the management in the improvement of products/services is crucial. Examples that show the management's involvement can be, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Within the organisation, the management itself promotes the importance of the environmental performance of products/services (in individual discussions, internal presentations, meetings, internal publications, New Year's meeting, etc.)</li> <li>→ The management supports and inspires personnel working on the improvement of products/services.</li> <li>→ In its contacts with key customers and suppliers, the management promotes the importance of improving products/services and encourages external parties to purchase these products and services or to make a contribution to them.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Explanation score</b></p> <p>If the three above-mentioned points apply to the management and this is also of a structural nature, the score 'All' is entirely appropriate. If the management is sometimes active in all three areas, but this is of a more incidental nature, the score 'Small share' is probably the most appropriate.</p>	
<p>Educational institution:                      Accountant:                      Cleaning company:                      Engineering firm:                      Construction company:                      Trailer manufacturer:</p>	
1c Share that is an improvement on common practice	<p>Three questions are asked under 1c. The first question concerns 'improvement compared to the normal'. The second question concerns 'substantial improvements' and the third question concerns products/services that are 'far ahead/leading'.</p> <p>The distinction between these three levels can be made clear with an example from the automotive industry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Improvement compared to the conventional: cars with more fuel-efficient engines</li> <li>→ Substantial improvement: hybrid-powered cars</li> <li>→ Far ahead/leading: cars with only electric drive</li> </ul> <p>Given that technological possibilities are subject to change, products/services that are 'far ahead/leading' will 'become common' over time. It is therefore possible that if/when the EPS is repeated, a change may have occurred, and a different product/service is 'far ahead'.</p>
<p><b>Explanation score</b></p> <p>Choose a criterion that provides a clear view of the scope of the products/services that have been delivered. This can be based on, for example, the turnover, the number of products, the number of students in education, the number of m<sup>2</sup> in cleaning, etc.</p>	
<p>Educational institution:                      Accountant:                      Cleaning company:                      Engineering firm:                      Construction company:                      Trailer manufacturer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Adapted catering, availability of water fountains</li> <li>→ Possibility to charge electric cars and bicycles</li> <li>→ Digital learning tools</li> <li>→ Biodegradable cleaning agents</li> <li>→ Use of FSC certified wood and recycled materials</li> </ul>	
Share that has been substantially improved	<p>This concerns products/services that are not leading, but to which essential improvements have already been made from an environmental point of view.</p> <p>Educational institution:                      Accountant:                      Cleaning company:                      Engineering firm:                      Construction company:                      Trailer manufacturer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ The environment/sustainability is occasionally involved in the programme</li> <li>→ Use of digital techniques to limit travel</li> <li>→ Offers energy-neutral homes</li> <li>→ Trailers are built lighter, resulting in lower fuel consumption</li> </ul>



Share that is leading in the market

Far ahead/leading can also be linked to the way in which products/services are offered. In the context of striving for a 'circular' economy, companies offer a service instead of products. Instead of supplying 'lamps', they offer the service 'lighting'. The supplier remains the owner of the products needed to supply the lighting and can thus reduce the environmental impact. Offering products in an innovative way can also be 'far ahead'.

**Explanation score**

See 1c

Educational institution: → The environment/sustainability is structurally interwoven into the programme → Adapted educational concept	Accountant:	Cleaning company: → Separation and registration of waste at customer's property → Cleaning on the basis of pollution → New services delivery and maintenance of facilities	Engineering firm:	Construction company: → Offers fully 'circular' housing with regard to materials and installations	Trailer manufacturer: → Trailers fully circular → Trailers remain in the possession of the manufacturer
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2a Understanding of the environmental aspects of purchased products/services

This question refers to purchased products/services, excluding investments in, for example, buildings, machinery and means of transportation. Questions about the investments are raised under the perspective 'Facilities'.  
The present question relates to all purchases that are not considered investments. These are dealt with in question 3. This concerns basic raw materials, semi-finished products and finished products. Finished products are important for (retail) trading companies, for example. Energy should also be regarded as a purchased product. Services may include, for example, maintenance of machinery/installations, cleaning, and transport.

The ISO 14001 standard (6.1.2) requires that the environmental aspects of activities, products and services be determined from a life cycle perspective. The environmental aspects can relate to all the possible environmental effects that occur to or in the chain of the parties that supply products and services. To be able to exert influence, the organisation must have a good understanding of the environmental aspects involved and how they can be influenced. The insight must be sufficiently detailed to be able to formulate criteria that can be used in the selection of a product/service and the supplier. Criteria may cover, for example:

- raw materials/materials that should/must or should/must not be used;
- the origin of raw materials/materials;
- the production processes used (such as sustainably generated energy or printing with water-based ink);
- the way in which products are transported (for example, by ship instead of by airplane, trucks with Euro x engines).

**Explanation score:**

Percentage of the total amount of products/goods purchased (excluding investments) for which there is a detailed understanding of the environmental aspects.

Educational institution: Products/services purchased: → Energy of the building → Catering → Cleaning/toiletries → Building maintenance → Waste disposal	Accountant: Products/services purchased: → Energy of the building → Catering → Cleaning/toiletries → Building maintenance → Waste disposal	Cleaning company: Products/services purchased: → Cleaning products → Toiletries and dispensers → Cleaning wipes/tools	Engineering firm: Products/services purchased: → Energy of the building → Catering → Cleaning/toiletries → Building maintenance → Waste disposal	Construction company: Products/services purchased: → Construction site installations → Energy of the construction site → Sealants, adhesives ...	Trailer manufacturer: Products/services purchased: → Metals → Spare parts → Tyres → Energy of the building/machines
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2b ISO 14001 certificate in purchasing products/services

When products are purchased, it is important to know where in the chain the most important environmental effects occur. Products are often purchased through a trading organisation. The question is therefore to what extent the parties with the most significant environmental effects also work systematically to improve their environmental performance. This concerns the presence of an ISO 14001 certificate among the organisations in the chain where the most significant environmental effects occur. An organisation that markets the products will have to make an inventory of the environmental aspects associated with the products purchased in the case of an ISO 14001 certificate. However, it is uncertain to what extent the intermediary in question also exercises or can exercise influence. That is why the presence of an intermediary ISO 14001 certificate only counts for 50%.

**Explanation score:**

Percentage of the value of purchases (excluding investments) for which the supplier and/or important links in the chain have an ISO 14001 certificate.

2c Environmental requirements for the purchase of products/services

If there is understanding of the environmental aspects and the possibilities of influencing them, substantive requirements can be included in the assignment. When, for example, transport services are purchased, requirements can be included for technology of the material used (such as type of engines/fuel), training of drivers, loading factor, etc. When products are purchased, requirements can be included for the raw materials used (origin, composition), technology used for the production, transportation method, packaging and their return, etc. When energy is purchased, choices can be made with regard to the production method.

**Explanation score:**

Percentage of the value of the purchases (excluding investments) for which specific environment-related requirements are included with regard to the product and/or the production/delivery method.

2d Agreements on take-back and/or processing of products

In the context of making the economy circular, it is important for an organisation to plan what will happen to the product (or the raw materials of which it is composed) at the end of the period of use, at the time of purchase of a product (or, where appropriate, an auxiliary material). This can be done, for example, by making agreements on take-back by the supplier or by making agreements with other companies about the use of the specific product or parts thereof. These can also be purchased raw materials for which a residue remains that can be used elsewhere. Means of production (such as cars) are excluded because they are not owned.

**Explanation score:**

Percentage of the value of purchases (excluding investments with a depreciation period of more than 5 years) for which specific environment-related requirements are included with regard to the product and/or method of production/delivery.

Educational institution:      Accountant:      Cleaning company:      Engineering firm:      Construction company:      Trailer manufacturer:

3a GAP analysis for compliance with BAT	<p>This concerns understanding the extent to which the means of production/installations/buildings with the greatest impact on the environment meet the highest possible standards in terms of environmental performance. These are, for example, the means of production/installations/buildings collectively related to the majority (80%, for example) of the emissions. This includes emissions related to energy consumption and other emissions into air, water, soil, or the environment (such as noise). Vehicles are also included in these facilities.</p> <p>Examples of BAT: Cars: electric/hydrogen, trucks: euro VI and LNG, buildings: energy neutral.</p> <p>For buildings, the BREEAM In-Use system can also be used to identify where improvements can be made. The starting point is then the achievement of the BREEAM In-Use outstanding level as BAT level.</p> <p>Investments to achieve the BAT level for the prevention of and/or reaction to incidents (such as explosions and leakages) are addressed in section 4c, they are not considered for question 3a.</p> <p><b>Explanation score:</b></p> <p>For example, the percentage of the (re)investment value of the facilities that determine the environmental performance for which there is a good understanding of the BAT level and of the investments needed to achieve this level.</p>																								
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3b Improvement plans with budget for BAT level within five years	<p>This concerns facilities for which demonstrable improvements/investments are planned to bring them up to BAT level within five years.</p> <p><b>Explanation score:</b></p> <p>The share of facilities for which there are demonstrable plans to bring them up to BAT level within five years. This can be determined by dividing the amount of the investments planned for the next five years by the total investments needed to bring all facilities up to BAT level. When facilities are leased, the purchase value of the facility in question should be taken into account.</p>																								
Budget for development of new technology (possibly N.A.)	<p>The development of means of production/processes that lead to better environmental performance requires resources for research, development and testing. The development can take place in cooperation with other parties. The possible involvement in the test phase of products/processes developed by third parties can be considered as a contribution to the development of new technology.</p> <p><b>Explanation score:</b></p> <p>The condition for awarding points is a research/development budget of 3% of the turnover/annual budget. It then concerns the share of the budget that is aimed at improving environmental performance. This may also be indirect (improvements in the process leading to less energy consumption, downtime, etc.).</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="470 989 728 1021">Educational institution:</td> <td data-bbox="728 989 985 1021">Accountant:</td> <td data-bbox="985 989 1243 1021">Cleaning company:</td> <td data-bbox="1243 989 1500 1021">Engineering firm:</td> <td data-bbox="1500 989 1758 1021">Construction company:</td> <td data-bbox="1758 989 2103 1021">Trailer manufacturer:</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="470 1021 728 1053">→ Mostly N.A.</td> <td data-bbox="728 1021 985 1053">→ Mostly N.A.</td> <td data-bbox="985 1021 1243 1053">→ Mostly N.A.</td> <td data-bbox="1243 1021 1500 1053">→ Mostly N.A.</td> <td data-bbox="1500 1021 1758 1053">→ Mostly N.A.</td> <td data-bbox="1758 1021 2103 1053">→ Mostly N.A.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="470 1053 728 1173"></td> <td data-bbox="728 1053 985 1173"></td> <td data-bbox="985 1053 1243 1173"></td> <td data-bbox="1243 1053 1500 1173"></td> <td data-bbox="1500 1053 1758 1173">→ Any industrialised/ prefabricated construction processes leading to reduced errors and waste</td> <td data-bbox="1758 1053 2103 1173"></td> </tr> </table>	Educational institution:	Accountant:	Cleaning company:	Engineering firm:	Construction company:	Trailer manufacturer:	→ Mostly N.A.	→ Mostly N.A.	→ Mostly N.A.	→ Mostly N.A.	→ Mostly N.A.	→ Mostly N.A.					→ Any industrialised/ prefabricated construction processes leading to reduced errors and waste							
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3c Facilities at BAT level	<p>The extent to which facilities with the most significant impacts on environmental performance already comply with BAT level.</p> <p><b>Explanation score:</b></p> <p>The share of the facilities as identified in question 3a that is at BAT level. The percentage expresses the investments made in relation to the total investments needed to achieve BAT level across all identified facilities.</p>																								

4a Degree of process control from an environmental point of view

The degree of process control is reflected, for example, in the amount of waste (for example, because mistakes are made, machines are not properly set up), emissions and energy consumption. The presence of facilities at BAT level does not mean that they automatically lead to optimal performance. Thus, the energy consumption of a building that is well insulated and an energy-efficient installation is influenced by, for example, the way in which the equipment is set up, the maintenance and the behaviour of users. The creation and separation of residual products is also related to process control. This also applies to the production process. Errors in the set up can lead to inefficient processes and, for example, rejection of products. The degree of process control is largely influenced by the behaviour and competencies of employees and the culture within the organisation with respect to delivering an optimal environmental performance.

**Explanation score:**

First determine which environmental performance indicators are (partly) dependent on process control. For example, energy consumption, the quantity of raw materials in relation to the end product, the quantity of waste in relation to production or the number of employees, etc. For the most important indicators, determine the extent to which the optimal result is achieved. Use the average to determine the score.

Educational institution:	Accountant:	Cleaning company:	Engineering firm:	Construction company:	Trailer manufacturer:
→ The energy consumption of climate installations compared to optimal favourable use	→ The energy consumption of climate installations compared to optimal favourable use	→ The quantity of cleaning agents in relation to m <sup>2</sup>	→ The energy consumption of climate installations compared to optimal favourable use	→ The quantity of industrial waste in relation to the turnover or m <sup>2</sup> of construction projects	→ The quantity of industrial waste in relation to the turnover
→ The kilos of residual waste compared to optimal favourable use	→ The kilos of residual waste compared to optimal favourable use	→ The fuel consumption of the company vehicles	→ The kilos of residual waste compared to optimal favourable use	→ The fuel consumption of the company vehicles	→ The energy consumption of climate installations

4b Understanding of the requirements from environmental laws and regulations

This concerns the understanding of the applicable legislation and regulations and the concrete requirements that ensue from this. The understanding must be so detailed that what needs to be done to comply with the requirements and to what extent they are met can also be determined immediately. This detailed understanding is also necessary to carry out the own assessment required in Article 9.1.2. Requirements can be in the form of concrete measures to be taken, standards for emissions per unit (for example), emission ceilings, reporting obligations, etc.

**Explanation score:**

The share of the organisation for which there is a complete understanding of the applicable environmental legislation and regulations and the resulting requirements. For organisations that are ISO 14001 certified, this should be present on the basis of article 6.1.3.

Educational institution:	Accountant:	Cleaning company:	Engineering firm:	Construction company:	Trailer manufacturer:
Relevant environmental legislation and regulations:	Relevant environmental legislation and regulations:	Relevant environmental legislation and regulations:		Relevant environmental legislation and regulations:	Relevant environmental legislation and regulations:
→ Waste separation	→ Waste separation	→ Waste separation		→ Waste separation	→ Waste separation
→ Energy	→ Energy	→ Energy		→ Energy	→ Energy
				→ Storage of hazardous substances	→ Storage of hazardous substances
				→ Groundwater extraction	→ Air emission
				→ ...	→ Explosion safety
					→ Fire safety
					→ ...

Own assessment of compliance with requirements

The ISO 14001 standard (9.1.2) requires an organisation to evaluate its own compliance with legal requirements. The frequency of these evaluations may vary per requirement. It also depends on the extent to which changes occur and the magnitude of the consequences of non-compliance. There must be an up-to-date insight into the compliance with legal requirements based on the frequencies established by the organisation.

**Explanation score:**

The share of the legal requirements for which there is an up-to-date own assessment of compliance.

<p>4c Demonstrable compliance with laws and regulations</p>	<p>On the basis of the own assessment, it is determined whether the legal requirements have been met.</p> <p><b>Explanation score:</b> The part of the legal requirements for which compliance has been demonstrated.</p>				
<p>Reports to the authorities</p>	<p>Organizations may be obliged to report deviations from legal requirements and/or special situations to the competent authority (usually an environmental department). A special situation can be, for example, a process disruption or maintenance that may lead to additional emissions, a fire, etc.</p> <p><b>Explanation score:</b> The share of the mandatory reports that have actually been reported.</p>				
<p>Action plan to solve deviations</p>	<p>The supervisor may require an action plan to be drawn up to resolve the consequences of the nonconformity and/or the measures to be taken to prevent future nonconformities.</p> <p><b>Explanation score:</b> The share of the deviations for which an action plan is required and for which an action plan that has been accepted by the regulator is also available.</p>				
<p>4d Understanding of the causes of emergency situations and the necessary measures to prevent emergency situations and manage environmental impacts</p>	<p>Emergency situations such as fire, explosions or leakages can have major consequences for the environment. It is important that the organisation is demonstrably familiar with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ the causes of possible emergency situations</li> <li>→ the measures that are necessary to prevent the cause and</li> <li>→ the measures taken to manage any emergency situations.</li> </ul> <p>This requires a detailed insight into the location and the quantities of hazardous substances (these are in any case the substances listed in the hazardous substances journal), activities that pose a risk (such as heat generation, scalding, leakage, vehicle crashes, etc.), substances that pose a risk to the environment in the event of fire (such as asbestos in roofs), and organisational and technical measures to prevent and control emergency situations. Technical measures concern requirements that are mandatory, for example, on the basis of PGS 15 and fire safety. Organisational measures include, for example, the emergency plan and exercises.</p> <p><b>Explanation score:</b> The first step is identifying all potential causes. The next question is whether this has been mapped out in sufficient detail for the entire organisation with possible measures. Points can only be awarded if all aspects of a particular cause have also been mapped out in detail. If this is only the case for a share of the organisation and for a share of the causes, a percentage can be given in proportion to the size of the cause.</p>				
<p>Educational institution: Possible causes of emergency situations: → Hazardous substances in laboratories, for example → Electrical installations → Unwanted fire (smoking etc.) → Building maintenance</p>	<p>Accountant: Possible causes of emergency situations: → Fire safety → Building maintenance</p>	<p>Cleaning company: Possible causes of emergency situations: → Hazardous substances in own storage</p>	<p>Engineering firm: Possible causes of emergency situations: → Hazardous substances in laboratory/R&amp;D → Fire safety</p>	<p>Construction company: Possible causes of emergency situations: → On-site work with heat → Presence of asbestos → Storage of hazardous substances (such as adhesives, sealants, bitumen, gas cylinders, paints, fuels, wood dust, etc.)</p>	<p>Trailer manufacturer: Possible causes of emergency situations: → Activities: welding, grinding, paint spraying → Storage of hazardous substances → Fire (smoking)</p>

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Maximum measures to prevent and manage emergency situations

Maximum measures entail, for example, that emergency plans are practiced systematically, that there is a schedule for exercises, and they are always evaluated, and the emergency plans and facilities are improved accordingly, etc. In order to control the consequences of fire as much as possible, it may be necessary to implement fire safety provisions (and their maintenance), even if they are not mandatory. If, for example, there is asbestos in the roofing, it must be removed at an early stage. Technical installations are always optimally maintained and in excellent condition. Technological developments keep going further and further. BAT level (Best Available Technology) can therefore go beyond what is required on the basis of legislation and regulations.

**Explanation score:**

Points can be scored when measures that go beyond the minimum are also taken. The percentage can be expressed in the share of the measures that could be taken in theory and those that have actually been realised. The share can be determined on the basis of the number of measures or the costs that must be incurred and have been realised.

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Educational institution:

Accountant:

Cleaning company:

Engineering firm:

Construction company:

Trailer manufacturer:

→ E.g. % of buildings with a sprinkler installation with maintenance certificate

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Safety culture 'proactive' or higher for Seveso companies (possibly N.A.)

TNO has developed a tool to measure the safety culture at companies that fall under the Seveso III Directive (Major Accident Hazards). The tool is also used by the government for inspections at Seveso companies. This instrument was developed in response to incidents that occurred at Seveso companies. It has been established that the safety culture plays an important role in the actual application of the technical and organisational measures that an organisation has taken to control the safety risks.

**Explanation score:**

When an organisation is assessed using the measurement of the safety culture developed by TNO, this leads to a conclusion regarding the level. This ranges from 'reactive/calculating' to 'proactive'. In the case of Seveso companies, the measurement is carried out per site. A score can only be rewarded if the level has been reached 'proactively'. If the EPS relates to several sites, the percentage of the sites that are 'proactive' applies.

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Educational institution:

Accountant:

Cleaning company:

Engineering firm:

Construction company:

Trailer manufacturer:

→ N.A.

→ N.A.

→ N.A.

→ N.A.

→ N.A.

→ N.A.

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## Contact

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. We will gladly help companies, organizations, consultants, supervisory bodies, certification bodies and other stakeholders.

**Mijn.sccm** is *the* knowledge platform for ISO 14001 and ISO 45001.

On mijn.sccm, you'll find a wealth of information including summaries of the most relevant (Dutch) environmental and OHS legislation and regulations, and semiannual overviews of updates to legislation and regulations (all summaries in Dutch). Click on [mijn.sccm.nl](http://mijn.sccm.nl) and sign up!

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Publication SCCM, The Hague, 10 October 2019