ISO 14001 AND SDG: FOCUS ON GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

ISO 14001 is the most successful international standard that formulates requirements for an environmental management system (EMS). Its purpose: to provide a management framework for improving a company’s environmental performance - and to do so in line with socio-economic requirements. Part of the “Sustainable Development Goals” issued by the United Nations also has the protection of the environment and the fight against climate change on its agenda. Read what contribution the environmental standard can make to this.

In 2015, the United Nations (UN) formulated a total of 17 overarching sustainability goals as part of the 2030 Agenda, which are to be achieved by 2030 at the latest. These “Sustainable Development Goals” (SDGs) represent a call to society to integrate the concept of sustainability into every activity. Directly addressed are above all governments, business and science, and not least consumers. The SDGs focus directly on the three pillars of sustainability: social, economic and ecological - just like ISO 14001.

Today, environmental management is an indispensable component of sustainable corporate development. Safeguarding the living space of present and future generations has become a global task. This obligation has found its way into the corporate policy of numerous companies. Accordingly, environmental protection is more than just compliance with regulatory obligations or limiting environmental impacts. Rather, ISO 14001 focuses on the continuous improvement of a company’s environmental performance.

ISO 14001 AND SDG 13

A look at ISO 14001 shows: The standard contains a number of requirements, some overarching and some concrete, whose implementation can make a direct contribution to combating climate change, the core message of Sustainable Development Goal 13:

“Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”

And its three sub-goals:

"Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries." (SDG 13.1)

"Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning." (SDG 13.2)

"Improve education, awareness-raising, and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning." (SDG 13.3)

MANAGEMENT SYSTEM STANDARD WITH SUSTAINABLE IMPACT

ISO 14001 users should improve their environmental performance, achieve environmental goals as well as fulfill binding obligations. As a management system standard, ISO 14001 also helps companies to achieve their economic goals, i.e. to operate successfully on the market in the long term. Thus, modern management system standards such as ISO 14001 and ISO 50001 (energy) in their current version can be seen as the result of an increasing sustainability development.

They contain requirements, the fulfillment of which definitely accommodates the idea of sustainability depending on the subject area. They define responsibilities, behaviors, processes and specifications for implementing corporate policy. With the help of transparent structures in defined processes, the defined goals can be systematically achieved. The environmental standard therefore has a positive role to play in the fight against climate change and the waste of natural resources.
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TRANSLATING SDG FORMULATIONS INTO CONCRETE STANDARD LANGUAGE

It is not always easy to see which of the general formulations correlate to which points of ISO 14001. As an example, SDG 13 contains well-known standard requirements, such as

- Consideration of the context of the organization from an environmental point of view
- Formulate a corporate policy that places environmental considerations at the forefront of the organization’s activities
- Identifying and taking into account the needs and expectations of (relevant) interested parties
- Focus on environmental issues as early as the strategic planning stage
- Consideration of those environmental conditions that are influenced by the organization
- Consideration of the life cycle of products, including their use and disposal
- Continuous improvement with regard to environmental performance
- Introduction of measures to reduce environmental risks
- Compliance with legal and other (binding) obligations

“Life below water and Life on land”

Both Sustainable Development Goals can also be linked to the requirements of ISO 14001. This is because effective environmental management goes far beyond climate protection. The protection of water (oceans, lakes, rivers), flora and fauna, and terrestrial ecosystems such as forests, meadows and moors is also firmly anchored in the environmental standard. Given that oceans and large areas of forest and extensive peatlands are effective CO2 sinks, their protection is also an important issue in the fight against climate change.

A STRONG TEAM: SDG AND ISO 14001

Achieving good environmental performance requires a company’s commitment to the systematic implementation and continuous improvement of an EMS. Standard users are expected to use the requirements to improve environmental performance, achieve environmental goals, and meet legal and other obligations to which the organization has committed itself. Companies that accept this responsibility focus on the systematic improvement of their own environmental performance in line with socio-economic requirements and thus operate a credible environmental management system.

ISO 14001 provides the necessary framework for this, regardless of a company’s size, type, location or stage of development. With an ISO 14001 certificate, companies show their customers, partners and interested parties that they bear responsibility for the environment and align their activities accordingly - thus also contributing to the United Nations SDGs.

Source: DQS Blog article by Altan Dayankac, DQS standard expert for occupational safety and sustainability

The SDGs - sustainable development goals for people and the environment

https://sdgs.un.org/goals
MyDQS 2.0—More Transparency for your audit projects

At mydqs.com, DQS customers worldwide can access details about their locations, their audits and their certificates - regardless of country or status. MyDQS 2.0 offers transparency and control of the status at each site: the reporting module shows authorized users the individual status of audits at locations of your choice with just a few clicks. Receive status updates on audits: information about your auditors and contact options to your customer service.

Just a few clicks let you create evaluations of your audit results, view non-conformities and opportunities for improvement (OFI) of individual locations by standard chapters and compare them with other locations. Or analyze and benchmark audit results from the Audit Manager with other audits in your organization. All reports can be downloaded for further processing.

With the new responsive platform, the security of customer data is state of the art. Compliance with GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) is a top priority for DQS. Accordingly, all data is stored exclusively on our own servers in Germany to guarantee compliance and protection of your data privacy.

If you are already a customer and need access, please contact the nearest office for information and a customized offer for your organization.

Disclaimer: some features only available in combination with Audit Manager

Above: Dashboard for an overview of the status of audits with additional analytical information and reporting features

DQS customer Phoenix Lighting Assists with COVID-19 Pandemic Relief

It’s been a year since the pandemic has turned the way we do business upside down. Many companies, including us at DQS, had to pivot and find ways to continue on. We are so proud that we were able to adapt quickly, but we are even more proud of the work some of our customers have done. Some companies even shifted some of their business to help with the recovery of the pandemic, and so we wanted to highlight one of them here.

Phoenix Products, LLC has been ISO 9001 certified with DQS since 2014. During their audit this year, the auditor found out how they were able to assist with the US Navy’s urgent request to upgrade lighting so the USNS Comfort could provide relief to New York’s land-based hospitals that were over-capacity and struggling to keep up with the number of critical patients toward the beginning of the pandemic.

The USNS Comfort is a Navy hospital ship with all the amenities of a land-based medical facility deployed to help ease the burden on New York hospitals at the time.

Phoenix Lighting has been a longstanding lighting supplier for the US Navy since the 1970s, specifically with the Aircraft Carriers and Littoral Combat Ships. When the Navy turned to them with the need to update the lighting, they were able to customize, build and deliver ModCom 2 floodlights in a matter of four days so the USNS Comfort would have the lighting quality, safety and efficiency requirement for its deployment.

They worked with distribution partners Federal Resources and Resource Lighting and controls to meet the Navy’s needs in time. Well done Phoenix Products! We love when our auditors relay stories like this about how our customers are helping to make a difference.

Article courtesy of Phoenix Lighting and DQS Inc.
Ukrenergo has received the certificate of compliance of the information security management system with the requirements of the international standard ISO/IEC 27001:2013. The independent auditor noted the high level of Ukrenergo’s information security management system in all areas of the company’s activities that were audited. The certification audit of Ukrenergo’s central office and separate subdivisions was conducted by DQS Certific Ukraine LLC and is the fourth for the company, after ISO 9001, 14001 and OH 18001.

The independent audit highlighted 5 strong points surpassing the requirements of the standard. This applies to providing the resources for the development of information security management system, creating up-to-date conditions for information processing and storing, clustering the resources for critical IT systems, implementing the behavioural analysis of undesired events by the security operations centre (SOC) and its interaction with national security agencies.

As part of checking the compliance with the ISO/IEC 27001:2013 Standard “Information Technology–Security Techniques–Information Security Management Systems–Requirements”, for example, the audit was focused on the activities of operational and technological control of operating modes of the IPS of Ukraine and its parallel operation with the power systems of neighbouring countries, the assurance of electricity transmission by trunk and interstate grids, the maintenance of the balancing market and the ancillary services market, the conclusion of bilateral contracts, the administration of commercial metering and commercial settlements.

The information security management audit also covered the organization of the physical protection at Ukrenergo’s facilities. In particular, the compliance with the access control requirements, the procedure of property custody and movement, the contractors’ performance under the contracts for facilities protection, the operation of video surveillance and access control systems, as well as the introduction of advanced technologies into the physical protection system of the Company’s facilities. Ukrenergo is the transmission system operator of Ukraine with the functions of operational and technological control of the Integrated Power System of Ukraine (IPS), transmission of electricity via trunk power grids from generation to distribution networks, as well as commercial metering administrator and settlement administrator of the electricity market of Ukraine.

“Obtaining the certificate is an important and milestone event for Ukrenergo in the context of the Ukrainian power system integration into ENTSO–E. Because it is the acknowledgement that the Company has implemented the information security management system that meets and, in some respects, surpasses the requirements of the international standard. It is one of the indicators ensuring the reliable and secure operation of the Transmission System Operator and the factor enhancing its credibility for key stakeholders,” commented Sergii Galagan, Chief Information Officer at Ukrenergo.

Article supplied by UKRENERGO

DQS IS AN APPROVED CERTIFICATION BODY FOR ICOMPLIANCE

The approval covers all standards that are part of the iCompliance Initiative, without any geographical restrictions. With a network of highly qualified auditors around the globe, DQS has the capability to provide value-adding audits to all participating suppliers.

The iCompliance initiative leverages a harmonized set of quality management standards to ensure compliance within the Fast-Moving Consumer Goods Industry supply chain. It is supported by leading Brand Owners of the FMCG industry, including Procter & Gamble, Johnson & Johnson, Estée Lauder and L’Oreal.

Please visit the website of DQS CFS for more information, about iCompliance and what DQS can offer.
Robert Bosch Spain now certified to ISO 50001

This year, Robert Bosch España, SLU successfully achieved its new ISO 50001 certification. The company’s products and services are designed to arouse enthusiasm, improve the quality of life and help conserve natural resources. Their goal is to offer the highest quality and reliability. In short: they want to create technology that is “Invented for life”. Their mission statement “We are Bosch” reflects this. It summarizes the company’s values, strengths and strategic orientation.

The mission is based on seven core values, which shape their corporate culture, ranging from a focus on the future and profit to cultural diversity. Responsibility and sustainability are part of this set of values and, therefore, of its actions. In terms of certification, the Madrid site is the first in Iberia to obtain ISO 50001 certification (with the exception of Bosch Hausgeräte (white goods) - BSH centers).

Having it means complying with the guidelines set by the values of its corporate culture, in particular those referring to responsibility towards the environment and society. An Energy Management System, as defined by ISO 50001, also favors the sustainability of the business and means ensuring the long-term success of the company while, at the same time, collaborating in the protection of the natural environment and energy resources for future generations.

In the specific case of Vicente Martínez, the auditor who evaluated them for the achievement of this Certificate, the contribution has been exceptional. Taking into account that this has been a Certification Audit and that their Energy Management System was in a very primitive state, Vicente has enlightened them with his knowledge and experience to make it mature in an optimal way in the coming years.

The audit with him has been a continuous learning, enjoyable and relaxed, without neglecting the requirement that an audit must have. This shows that an audit, in general, can be a great opportunity to learn and improve, and not necessarily a “stressful procedure to go through every year”.

Due to the pandemic situation, the certificate was presented by the auditor on behalf of the Managing Director of DQS España, J. Carlos Avendaño Berenguer

From left to right: Kathrin Hocke (RBEM Technical Director), Belén Lanillos Nieto (Facility Management technical planning) Javier González Pareja, (President of the Bosch Group for Spain and Portugal), Vicente Martínez (DQS CERT Auditor), Markus Fecke (Vice President Finance and Controlling Region Iberia)

Robert Bosch España, SLU summarizes the experience with the DQS Office in Spain as very satisfactory. Very customer-oriented professionals, with whom there has been an agile and close communication from the first moment, who have been up to the task when it has been necessary to solve incidents and congratulate us for the good work.

For our part from DQS CERT, S.L. We would like to thank Robert Bosch España, SLU for choosing DQS CERT, S.L. as their trusted certifier.

Source: www.dqsiberica.com, reprinted with permission

"Very customer-oriented professionals, with whom there has been an agile and close communication from the first moment, who have been up to the task when it has been necessary to solve incidents "

Discover DQS Video on ISO 50001:

The Energy Management Standard ISO 50001:2018 aims to help organizations establish the systems and processes to improve their energy performance, including efficiency and consumption. ISO 50001 is designed to help companies enhance their use of energy-consuming assets, evaluate and prioritize the implementation of energy-efficient technology, and promote efficiency throughout the supply chain.

For more information, contact the DQS office nearest you
TAPA PSR - Closing the Gap in Parking Security

Ever since TAPA launched its Parking Security Requirements (PSR) in the EMEA region more than three years ago, one of the Security Standard’s biggest supporters has been Ton Barten, Director of Truckparking lots Rotterdam Exploitatatie BV. He shares his thoughts on the best ways to accelerate the programme in EMEA.

The company operates 10 secure truck parking lots in the Netherlands, two of which are for trailers only, all secured and monitored 24/7 by their own dedicated control room. Except for the trailer parking lots, all but one has been successfully audited and certified by DQS to Level 2 of TAPA’s PSR, with the last secure truck park in Alblaserdam to become eligible for certification this year.

This experience and commitment, alongside Ton’s participation in TAPA EMEA’s Secure Parking Working Group, makes him particularly well-qualified to discuss the progress of TAPA’s PSR programme and the challenges of building volume in the secure truck parking market in Europe, in particular.

“There is a business model in operating a secure truck parking; improving the security of your location will attract new customers,” he says. “In my opinion, the best way to optimise investment and to unlock potential is to team up with TAPA. It makes locations visible and known to those interested and, at the same time, offers a guideline and audit system to ensure you do what is needed to sustain a secure parking business. I am not aware of any other programme that focuses on existing sites and the unlocking of existing potential. So, the PSR programme is without competition. It is the only programme.”

All parking lots will be TAPA certified

PSR is certainly a core part of Truckparking lots Rotterdam Exploitatatie BV’s sustainable business model. Just offering secure parking, however, is no guarantee of success. Parking places must cater to all the needs of their customers. In order to attract HGVs to visit their secure truck parking sites, operators must firstly demonstrate they provide the comfort and hygiene facilities truck drivers need when they take mandatory rest breaks.

Ton says: “In isolation, security, although representing the highest investment and the majority of operational costs, only appeals to a minority of users transporting high value loads. In this regard, TAPA offers us essential help on two issues; one, it allows us to see which part of these high investments and operational costs make sense to offer the proper level of security to driver, truck and cargo. Secondly, it’s the ideal party to inform its large membership base of what’s being offered, and guides traffic seeking security to our sites.”

It’s a marathon, not a sprint

While Truckparking lots Rotterdam Exploitatatie BV, and the other PPOs currently participating in TAPA’s PSR programme, clearly understand these benefits, there are still plenty of factors holding back the expansion of the secure truck parking industry as a whole. TAPA EMEA is committed to making a strong contribution to building a far greater volume of secure parking sites but the numbers remind everyone this journey is a marathon, not a sprint. Although TAPA’s Security Parking Online Tool (SPOT) now gives the Association’s members visibility of 75 sites offering a total of 7,636 parking places in 14 countries, TAPA estimates the current level of demand for secure truck parking at 2,000 sites and 400,000 parking places. The gap represents a significant opportunity for PPOs.

Greatest potential lies in upgrading existing parking sites

As Ton explains: “To me, the greenfield development of new sites is too slow to make a significant difference in the near future. Instead, upgrading existing sites, and the potential to expand these once successful, makes much more sense if you look at the gap between what is needed and what is there. Don’t get me wrong, we do need the bigger investments and plans, and they should receive a great deal of attention from policymakers and investors, but there is a bigger potential to unlock right now.”

“The estimated shortage, in my mind, reflects the current situation. In the last decade, we identified a need for secure truck parking lots and have started, as an industry, to build and operate them. We need to find ways to accelerate this programme fast.”

Alongside that lack of progress is, often, also a lack of awareness. “There are trucks being parked (illegally) near our sites. I cannot see what cargo they hold, but I’m not astonished by this use of what TAPA calls ‘unclassified parking’. Bear in mind that vehicles have to park up because driving time has come to an end. In most places throughout Europe, there is no secure truck parking available and we have trained and educated truck drivers to park creatively when dictated to do so by their tachograph. So, in most cases, seeing them end up at a spot near to a secure truck parking area is not the result of companies being unwilling to use a secure facility, it is more a lack of awareness, planning or information.”

Planners and drivers need to know where secure parking sites are

That’s arguably a far bigger challenge for some PPOs than it is for Truckparking lots Rotterdam Exploitatatie BV, which has an occupation rate of more than 90%. Ton says he is yet to survey customers to determine how many bookings are being triggered by the company’s TAPA PSR certification but he expects the successful occupancy rate ‘will partly have to do with our TAPA certification.’
TAPA PSR - Closing the Gap in Parking Security

Certification ‘makes you improve’
Certification, he says, challenges a business to check its procedures (like ISO does) and the inherent quality of its organisation. “It provides us with a transparent analysis of what we can or should improve both in terms of our operations and assets. So, it is the process itself that brings the most benefits and leads to further improvement and professionalism. No matter how well organised one is, the fact that you have to prove that to an external auditor makes you improve.”

“We have not yet seen a truck parking which exists solely on offering security only. Hence the level of security does not seem to correlate with the fees paid. Having said that, it’s clear that trucks seeking increased security do have less of a problem paying increased costs for parking associated with higher security measures. TAPA has so far demonstrated that its members do look for secure truck parking lots and we do see TAPA members visiting our sites more often. So there definitely is a benefit.”

A serious business opportunity
So, given his backing of TAPA’s PSR, what is Ton Barten’s message to other owners and operators of truck parking places? “Improving the security of your location will attract new customers. The only way to optimise investment and operations, in order to unlock that potential, is to team up with TAPA. It will make your location visible and known to those interested in making bookings and, at the same time, give you a set of requirements and an audit system to ensure you do what is needed to sustain the business of a secure parking.

He concludes: “External databases of secure truck parking lots benefit us all. Potentially all European drivers are our customers, so you must be recognised as a serious participant in this industry. The best way is to intensify your contacts with companies that already visit your site and to be listed on as many databases as possible with creditable references. A TAPA PSR certificate will surely help every site get the attention of planners and drivers. As one entrepreneur to another, I would say ‘please look into it!’

DQS: Global presence - Local expertise
DQS is one of the leading certification bodies for management systems worldwide. With 85 offices in 60 countries, and 2,500 auditors and experts worldwide, DQS is your trusted partner for sustainable success. DQS Holding, based in Frankfurt, provides the strategic leadership for all DQS offices worldwide. We strive for one common goal: to improve our customers’ management systems and organizational health by offering value-adding assessment services

Where to find us
Please contact the local DQS office in your area.
The list is available online at the Group website