



## ISO 14001:2004 and U.S. EPA Performance Track Program

Members of the U.S. EPA Performance Track program have established Environmental Management Systems in place. Registering these systems to ISO 14001:2004 presents many new potential benefits and a whole new range of opportunities.

### Performance Track

Performance Track was launched in June of 2000 by the U.S. EPA after extensive consultation with stakeholders and state agencies. The program is open to companies with facilities in all sectors who have implemented an EMS and had it independently assessed. As a performance standard, members must also demonstrate compliance with environmental laws, commitment to improvements in at least four environmental aspects and maintenance of public outreach activities. Members submit Annual Performance Reports and re-apply to the program every three years in conjunction with a new independent assessment.

Membership provides participating companies with access to recognition, networking, incentive, supplier and mentoring programs. Visit [www.epa.gov/performance-track](http://www.epa.gov/performance-track) for further details.

***ISO 14001:2004 is a global environmental management Standard established through consensus and initially published in 1996. It was most recently reviewed and released in 2004.***

***Experts from 61 countries, including the United States, participated in the latest revisions, which were coordinated by ISO, the International Organization for Standardization.***

### ISO 14001:2004 Registration

ISO 14001:2004 registration and Performance Track membership are very similar in that they are both open to companies with all types of facilities, are voluntary, require an independently assessed EMS, and provide external recognition for responsible environmental management and protection. Requirements of ISO 14001 registration that are not part of Performance Track membership involve contractor and supplier management, evaluation of compliance with non-regulatory environmental requirements, administrative activities and independent assessments. See Table 1.

Topic	ISO 14001 Requirement – additional to Performance Track*
Contractors/Suppliers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate the environmental policy</li> <li>• Provide EMS awareness training</li> <li>• Ensure their competence for significant environmental aspects activities</li> <li>• Communicate procedures related to significant environmental aspects of goods and services</li> </ul>
Resources, Roles, Responsibility and Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure resources are available to support the EMS</li> <li>• Document the R/R/R/A to facilitate effective environmental management</li> </ul>
Objectives, Targets & Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider a larger set of factors when selecting them</li> <li>• Assign responsibility for the programs</li> </ul>
Environmental Aspects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of the full set of environmental aspects, as a precursor to determining which are significant</li> </ul>
Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate compliance with other (voluntary) requirements</li> </ul>
Monitoring & Measurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calibrate or verify instruments</li> </ul>
Various	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fuller requirements related to document control, corrective and preventive action, records management, and management review</li> </ul>

\* This summary is meant to highlight the key areas of change. The extent of the gaps between your EMS and what is required by ISO 14001 will depend on how you have implemented your EMS

Table 1



QMI-SAI Global is North America's leading management systems registrar. We have registered thousands of manufacturing and service firms spanning a broad spectrum of industries. We are accredited by many accreditation bodies, including ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) and we were the first registrar in North America accredited for ISO 14001.

We're focused not only on evaluating business practices against standards, but also on understanding how compliance with those standards can improve operations. Our auditors are industry veterans in the sectors they serve, enabling them to precisely interpret the standards.

We have audit professionals deployed across North America and a network of 7 offices on the continent, making us an excellent local source for registration services.

There are many benefits of ISO 14001:2004 registration including:

- International recognition, an advantage for exporters.
- A common platform for global company-wide environmental management.
- Focus on improvement and management system performance promotes cost and efficiency savings.
- Access to external QMI-SAI Global auditor knowledge provides opportunities for improvement.
- Ensures businesses are being operated as planned.
- Tangible benefits identified by a 2007 ISO 14001 survey of registered US facilities\*:
  - over 25% indicated annual savings of \$25 to \$100K
  - 15% indicated annual savings of greater than \$100K
  - 55% indicated that over 80% of their savings were due to Registration

*\*Survey conducted and sponsored by QSU, ANAB and the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton Risk Management and Decision Processes Center*

**QMI-SAI Global Expertise**

## QMI-SAI Global Services

- ISO 14001:2004 registration
- RC14001:2008 ® registration
- RCMS:2008 ® registration
- Performance Track independent assessments
- Integrated registration and independent assessments

Visit: <http://www.qmi.com/registration/environmental/> for more information about QMI's services.

## Contact Us Today

To learn more about how QMI can help your organization meet your environmental management and business needs, please contact John Fraser, Product and Development Manager, Environment, at (800) 465-3717 or visit us at [www.qmi.com](http://www.qmi.com).

