

ISO 14001 CHECKING AND CORRECTIVE ACTION (4.5)

In the ISO 14001 standard the checking and corrective action phase of the standard follows the development of the Environmental Policy statement, the planning phase and the implementation phase. This overall section of the standard discusses the necessary elements of the checking and corrective action process of the environmental management system. This section of the standard contains four distinct elements: Monitoring and Measuring (4.5.1), Nonconformance and Corrective and Preventative Action (4.5.2), Records (4.5.3), and Environmental Management System Audit (4.5.4).

There is a basic question that needs to be addressed for each element within Section 4.5.

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| <p>4.5.1 Monitoring and Measurement
<i>How does the organization evaluate the key characteristics of the EMS with respect to conformance with both Environmental Objectives and Targets and environmental laws and regulations?</i></p> |
| <p>4.5.2 Nonconformance and Corrective and Preventative Action
<i>How does the organization handle nonconformance with respect to the EMS?</i></p> |
| <p>4.5.3 Records
<i>How does the organization handle records associated with the EMS?</i></p> |
| <p>4.5.4 Environmental Management System Audit
<i>How does the organization conduct environmental audits of the EMS?</i></p> |

The Environmental Policy statement has been crafted, the Environmental Objectives and Targets have been established, and the development of the implementation and operation phase has been completed. Now the organization needs to implement and operate the data collection (checking) and assessment (corrective action) phase of the environmental management system.