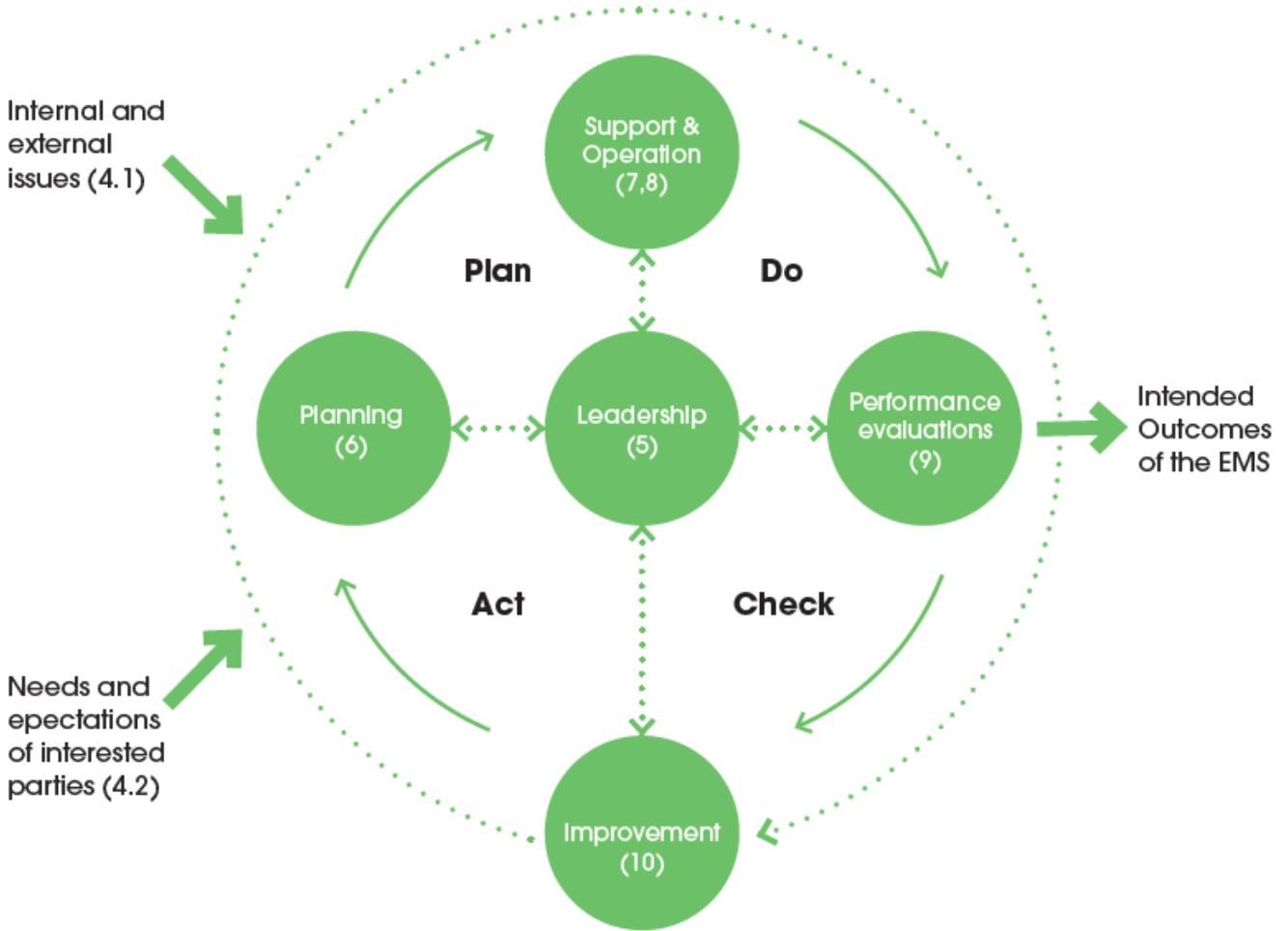




The basic model for an Environmental Management System (EMS) is shown below.

Context of the organisation (4)

Scope of the environmental management system (4.3/4.4)



The model is a continual spiral of activity leading to continual improvement.



There are seven groups of activities in the spiral and these are based on the total quality management “Plan – Do – Check – Review” cycle:

- Context of the organisation
- Leadership
- Planning
- Support
- Operation
- Performance evaluation
- Improvement

Within these seven main groups there are 21 separate EMS elements and requirements.

WHO SHOULD USE THE ISO 14001:2015 STANDARD?

ISO 14001:2015 is relevant to all organisations, regardless of size, location, sector, or industry.

ISO 14001:2015 should be used by any organisation that wishes to set up, improve, or maintain an environmental management system to conform to its established environmental policy and requirements. The requirements of the standard can be incorporated into any environmental management system, the extent to which is determined by several factors including the organisation’s industry, environmental policy, products and service offerings, and location.

The Standard ISO14001 now compliments the ISO9001 standard, meaning ISO 14001:2015 is ideal as a standalone management system or integrated as part of your Quality Management System (QMS).

WHAT TOPICS DOES ISO 14001:2015 COVER – WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS OF ISO14001:2015?

Below are the seven key sections (4 to 10 in keeping with their numbering in the standard):

4. Context of the organisation (interested parties and scope)

This section deals with general requirements for an EMS including understanding your organisational context, the needs and expectations of interested parties for your EMS, and documentation of the scope of the Environmental Management System.

Some organisations will already be assessing their context, risks and opportunities through their business plan or strategy.

5. Leadership

This section identifies the requirement for Top Management to demonstrate leadership and commitment to the EMS and identify the organisational roles, responsibilities, and authorities that will be present in the EMS. Leadership also includes the responsibility of the Environmental Policy that will act as the overall goal of the EMS. This policy must include a commitment to prevent pollution and to comply with all legal requirements to which the company is subject.

6. Planning

The section on planning emphasises the need to identify and plan to address risks and opportunities of the EMS, and how the processes of the organization interact with the environment (these are called environmental aspects), as well as how the company will keep up to date with legal requirements. The requirements also address the setting of objectives and planning to achieve them within the EMS.

7. Support

This largest section addresses requirements on resources in the EMS, including the assessment of competence, training, and EMS awareness. Included in these requirements are how you will control documented information for the EMS as well as internal and external communication that is relevant to your EMS.



8. Operations

While this is a small section, it is very important, as it sets the requirements on how you will plan for the control of your operations, how you will consider life cycle perspective and how you will prepare and respond to emergency environmental situations.

9. Performance evaluation

This second-largest section deals with how you will monitor, measure, analyse, and evaluate your EMS processes, including how you will evaluate compliance with legal requirements. A system of internal audits is mandated to make sure you audit your system performance to identify problems, and apply corrections for these problems. Finally, there are requirements on how management will review the EMS to ensure it is working and improving. Part of the management review is to make sure adequate resources are applied to the EMS so that it can function properly.

10. Improvement

The last section deals with requirements for how you will address nonconformity in your EMS processes, corrective actions needed for these nonconformities, and continual improvement activities for the occasions when you identify a problem before it occurs, or seek to make your processes better with respect to your environmental impact.