

ISO 14000 SERIES AND ECOMARK SCHEME

WHAT IS ISO 14000?

- ISO 14000 is a set of standards created to help companies around the world reduce their adverse impact on the environment. It's a framework for improved and more environmentally-conscious quality management systems by organizations large and small.
- The ISO 14000 series of standards was introduced in 1996 by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and most recently revised in 2015.
- Adopting the standards is strictly optional. Companies can get ISO 14000 certified. More than 400,000 organizations around the world have obtained certification, according to the latest ISO survey.

Understanding ISO 14000

- ISO 14000 is meant to be a step-by-step guide for establishing and then achieving environmentally-friendly objectives for business practices and products. The purpose is to help companies manage processes efficiently while minimizing environmental effects.
- ISO 14000 includes standards that cover aspects of management practices inside facilities, in the immediate environment around the facilities, and during the life cycle of the actual product. This includes understanding the impact of the raw materials used to create the product as well as the impact of its eventual disposal. ISO. "ISO 14001 and Related Standards: Environmental Management."

ISO 14000 Standards

- **ISO 14001 and ISO 14002:** Specification of Environmental Management Systems
- **ISO 14004:** Guideline Standard
- **ISO 14015, ISO 14016, and ISO 14017:** Environmental Auditing and related Activities
- **ISO 14020, ISO 14021, and ISO 14024:** Ecolabeling
- **ISO 14030 and ISO 14031:** Environmental Performance Evaluation
- **ISO 14040 – ISO 14043:** Life Cycle Assessment

How to Become ISO 14000 Certified

ISO 14000 certification can be achieved by having an accredited auditor verify that all the requirements are met.

Obtaining certification is a process that can take several years. Safety Culture, a software company that specializes in improving workplace safety & risk management, suggests companies conduct an internal audit to evaluate their compliance before undergoing the formal accreditation process.

Benefits of ISO 14000

- Obtaining ISO 14000 certification can be considered a sign of a commitment to the environment, which can be used as a marketing tool for companies. It may also help companies meet environmental regulations that are imposed by governments in which they do business.
- ISO 14000 certification can open the doors to new business. Some companies prefer to use suppliers that are ISO 14000–certified suppliers.
- Their customers may also pay more for products that are environmentally friendly.
- On the cost side, meeting the ISO 14000 standards can help reduce costs, as it stresses the efficient use of resources, limiting waste, recycling, and even finding new uses for previously disposed of byproducts.

What Are the ISO 14000 Requirements?

ISO 14000 is an environmental management system. It contains requirements for achieving and maintaining environmentally sound standards of doing business. The entire business process is considered, from product manufacturing to product performance and, ultimately, product disposal.

ISO 14001, often used interchangeably with ISO 14000, is the core component of ISO 14000.

What is Eco-Mark?

1.The Government of India has instituted a scheme for labeling environment-friendly products to be known as ECO Mark. Eco-mark is issued by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) as a certification mark for the products which are ecologically safe conforming to the standards prescribed by the BIS.

2.The Eco-mark scheme falls under the ambit of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The scheme first saw its application in 1991.

3.Eco-Marks helps in identifying eco-friendly products in the market. The mark is being issued in around 16 categories like food, medicines, chemicals, electronic goods, paper, lubricating oils, packing materials, etc.

Eco Mark symbol/Eco Mark logo

An earthen pot is the logo of the Eco Mark, signifying the usage of renewable resources, like clay, which consumes less energy and does not have hazardous waste. It represents the strength and fragility which characterises the ecosystem.

An Eco Mark signifies that a product is the right environmental choice product. The Eco Mark and ISI mark on a product indicates that the product meets the environmental criteria and quality requirements specified in the relevant Indian Standards.

The combination of the Eco logo and ISI mark is given below:



Objectives of ECO MARK Label Scheme

- 1.To offer an incentive to producers and importers to reduce the adverse impact of their products on the environment.
- 2.To reward good initiatives companies take in order to reduce the adverse environmental impact of their products.
- 3.To encourage consumers to be more environmentally aware in their day-to-day lives and urge them to take into account environmental factors also before making a purchase decision.
- 4.To promote environmentally-safe products among citizens.
- 5.To improve environmental quality and promote sustainable management of resources.

Eco Mark products list in India

The Eco Mark Scheme covers the below product categories:

- Soaps and detergents
- Food items
- Paints
- Lubricating oils
- Electrical and electronic goods
- Batteries
- Wood substitutes
- Food additives
- Aerosols and propellants
- Cosmetics
- Plastic products
- Fire-extinguisher
- Textiles
- Coir and coir products
- Leather
- Packing or packaging materials
- Architectural paints and powder coatings

Criteria of the Eco Mark Scheme

The significant environmental consequences of the goods that are up for certification will be assessed:

- Compared to comparable items in consumption, manufacture, and disposal, they have significantly lower pollution potential.
- They're constructed of recycled or biodegradable materials or recycled or recyclable.
- They contribute significantly to the preservation of nonrenewable resources.
- They must help reduce the negative primary criterion with the greatest environmental effect when the product is used.

ECOMARK CERTIFICATE AND LICENSING

Manufacturers will have to apply for an ECOMARK label for testing and certification. BIS will carry out the necessary testing and certification process. Once the product gets a label, it can carry the ECOMARK label for a prescribed time period after which it will have to apply again for a renewed license to carry the mark. The minimum period for which the award is given is one year. The award may be withdrawn by the BIS if they find any misleading information. It can also withdraw the award in case of technology advancement or any other valid reason.

REFERENCES

- <https://asq.org/quality-resources/iso-14000>
- <https://testbook.com/ias-preparation/ecomarks>
- <https://byjus.com/free-ias-prep/ecomarks/>
- <https://cleartax.in/s/eco-mark>