

**Review: ISO 14000 :
A Guide to the New Environmental Management Standards.**

By Tom Tibor and Ira Feldman

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Tibor, Tom and Ira Feldman. *ISO 14000: A Guide to the New Environmental Management Standards*. Burr Ridge, Illinois: Irwin Professional Publishing, 1996. 237 pp. \$35.00. ISBN 0-7863-0523-1.

If you have not heard about the ISO 14000 series of environmental management standards, you need to know more about them.

The ISO (International Standards Organization, Geneva, Switzerland) 14000 series of environmental management standards will soon affect every aspect of business and industry environmental operations. The ISO 14000 series is comprised of several guideline standards and one compliance standard. It is modeled after the BS 7750 (Environmental Management Systems) originally published in 1992 and updated in 1994. These standards will not replace regulations, legislation and codes of practice (such as Responsible Care) to which organizations must comply. However, the ISO standards will provide a voluntary mechanism to monitor, manage, and improve performance regarding environmental requirements. These standards will serve as the driving force for relations between business and the environment as we enter the 21st Century.

ISO 14000: A Guide to the New Environmental Management Standards is a comprehensive preview of the ISO 14000 series for companies wanting to know what ISO 14000 is, how it will affect them, and what they can do in response. The book explores the ISO 14000 series in detail and traces the development of the standards. It describes the standards under development including: environmental management systems, environmental auditing, environmental labeling, environmental performance evaluation, and life cycle assessment. The authors, Tibor and Feldman, discuss some of the international and domestic implications of the standards, the probable registration process, and other relevant environmental management regulations, including the European Union's Eco-Management and Audit Regulation. Tibor and Feldman are currently working on a second ISO 14000 publication, an implementation guide to be

written by knowledgeable contributors.

The implementation of the ISO 14000 standards (in particular the ISO 14001 Environmental Management System) will facilitate a company's enhanced compliance to rules and regulations and demonstrate environmental management performance. It will also yield financial benefits in terms of less expensive internal and external environmental audits, increased efficiency in operations, and increased client awareness of a more environmentally friendly or "greener" protocol for operations.

The ISO 14000 series of environmental management standards now under development by the ISO are certain to affect every aspect of a company's environmental operations. ISO 14000 has captured the attention of business and governments worldwide. As in the case of the ISO 9000 quality management standards, ISO 14000 registration may soon become a global passport to doing business for thousands of companies.

For those just getting involved with ISO 14000 issues, an informative World Wide Web page is the ISO 14000 InfoCenter <<http://www.iso14000.com>>. This Web page is sponsored by the Environmental Industry Web Site and provides: an overview of ISO 14000, a brochure for the Tibor and Feldman book, access to the ISO 14000 AnswerCenter, a listing of organizations involved with the standards, education and training, companies which offer ISO 14000 and related services, descriptions of ISO 14000 business opportunities, and other ISO 14000 resources.

In addition, Burt Hamner <ASEAN EIP, hamnghee@mozcom.com> has published an electronic article, "Pollution Prevention: The Cost Effective Approach Towards ISO Compliance." It is an excellent introductory article and contains the following following World Wide Web sites having information about the ISO 14000 standards, including descriptions, commentary, registrars and consultants:

ISO 14000, Environmental Management, Compliance & Auditing

<<http://www.ktb.net/~rassoc>>

Environmental Management Systems Introduction

<<http://www.quality.co.uk/ecoadvic.htm>>

ISO 14000 Information and Links

<<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/pollprev/ISO14000/ISO14000>>

ISO TC 207: Environmental Management (home page of ISO)

<<http://www.iso.ch/meme/TC207.html>>

Stoller ISO 14000 Information <<http://www.stoller.com/iso.htm>>

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