Certified ISO 14001 Lead Auditor Training

Duration: **4 Day**

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This expert-led course develops the knowledge and practical auditing skills required to plan, conduct, lead, and manage **Environmental Management System (EMS)** audits based on ISO 14001.

The programme combines recognised audit principles, procedures, and techniques with the requirements of **ISO/IEC 17021-1** and the guidance provided by **ISO 19011**. This gives participants a structured and practical framework for carrying out effective EMS audits.

Learners explore the complete audit lifecycle, beginning with audit preparation and initiation and progressing through on-site activities, evidence collection and verification, reporting, closing activities, and follow-up.

Through practical exercises, interactive discussions, quizzes, and realistic audit scenarios, participants build confidence in assessing EMS conformity, collecting and validating audit evidence, managing audit teams, and supporting continual environmental improvement.

The course also supports preparation for the **PECB ISO 14001 Lead Auditor** certification exam, helping participants develop professional competence in auditing Environmental Management Systems against ISO 14001 requirements.

Prerequisites

To gain the greatest benefit from the course, participants should have:

- A general understanding of environmental management concepts
- Knowledge of ISO 14001 requirements and terminology
- Awareness of audit principles, practices, and audit lifecycle activities
- Previous experience with management systems or compliance-related activities is recommended

Who Should Attend

This course is suitable for:

- Auditors who want to conduct or lead Environmental Management System audits
- Consultants and managers responsible for EMS compliance and audit activities
- Professionals responsible for maintaining conformity with ISO 14001 requirements
- Technical experts preparing to participate in or support EMS audits
- Environmental management advisors and compliance specialists
- Organisations looking to strengthen environmental governance and internal audit capability

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What You Will Learn

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Explain the fundamental concepts and principles of an Environmental Management System based on ISO 14001
- Interpret ISO 14001 requirements from an auditor's perspective
- Evaluate EMS conformity against ISO 14001 using recognised audit principles and methodologies
- Plan, initiate, conduct, and close ISO 14001 audits in line with ISO/IEC 17021-1, ISO 19011, and accepted auditing best practices
- Apply effective techniques for collecting, verifying, and reporting audit evidence
- Lead audit teams and manage communication throughout the audit lifecycle
- Support continual improvement by identifying nonconformities, corrective actions, and opportunities for improvement
- Manage an ISO 14001 audit programme effectively within an organisation

Training Outline

1. Introduction to Environmental Management Systems and ISO 14001

- Overview of Environmental Management Systems
- Organisational benefits of an EMS
- Structure, principles, and requirements of ISO 14001
- Environmental risks, impacts, and compliance obligations
- Key concepts relating to sustainability, governance, and continual improvement
- Roles and responsibilities within the EMS audit process

2. Audit Principles and Audit Programme Management

- Fundamental audit concepts and principles
- Audit methodologies
- Auditor competence and professional conduct
- Introduction to ISO 19011 guidance
- Understanding ISO/IEC 17021-1 requirements
- Managing audit programmes and schedules
- Defining audit objectives, scope, and criteria

3. Preparing and Initiating an ISO 14001 Audit

- Planning audit activities
- Developing an audit strategy
- Reviewing documented information and EMS processes
- Conducting opening meetings
- Managing stakeholder communication
- Preparing audit checklists
- Defining evidence collection approaches
- Identifying risks, opportunities, and audit priorities

4. Conducting On-Site Audit Activities

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- Collecting audit evidence
- Verifying evidence
- Conducting interviews
- Evaluating operational controls
- Assessing EMS effectiveness against ISO 14001 requirements
- Evaluating compliance
- Identifying nonconformities
- Documenting audit findings
- Managing audit team activities
- Maintaining professional audit conduct

5. Closing the Audit and Reporting Findings

- Preparing audit conclusions
- Developing recommendations
- Drafting nonconformity reports
- Completing audit documentation
- Conducting closing meetings
- Presenting audit findings
- Following up corrective actions
- Monitoring improvement activities
- Supporting continual improvement through effective audit practices

6. Managing and Improving the Audit Programme

- Monitoring audit programme performance and effectiveness
- Maintaining auditor competence
- Supporting continual professional development
- Managing organisational audit priorities
- Addressing stakeholder expectations
- Strengthening environmental governance through audit insights
- Supporting long-term EMS improvement initiatives

Exams and Assessments

The course includes quizzes, practical exercises, audit scenarios, and collaborative activities designed to reinforce learning and support preparation for the certification examination.

The **PECB ISO 14001 Lead Auditor exam is included with the course** and is completed directly through PECB after the training has been completed.

The examination assesses competency across the following areas:

- Fundamental principles and concepts of an Environmental Management System
- Environmental Management System requirements
- Fundamental audit concepts and principles
- Preparing an ISO 14001 audit
- Conducting an ISO 14001 audit
- Closing an ISO 14001 audit
- Managing an ISO 14001 audit programme

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