

The core elements of the environmental management system

ISO 14001 is built up around the following 6 core elements :

Element 4.1 : General requirements

The organization shall establish and maintain an environmental management system, the requirements of which are described in the whole clause 4

Element 4.2 : Environmental policy

Element 4.3 : Planning

- 4.3.1 : Identify the significant environmental aspects for products, processes and suppliers
- 4.3.2 : Identify the legal requirements
- 4.3.3 : Establish and document targets and objectives for the significant environmental aspects
- 4.3.4 : Document programs of how to fulfil the targets and objectives

Element 4.4 : Implementation and operation

- 4.4.1 : Establish and describe the environmental organization
- 4.4.2 : Identify need of education and perform education
- 4.4.3 : Establish documentation of how to communicate with interested parties
- 4.4.4 : Document the environmental management system
- 4.4.5 : Establish routines of how to distribute environmental documentation
- 4.4.6 : Identify and establish routines of activities that may give impact upon the environmental aspects
- 4.4.7 : Establish and train routines to prevent and/or correct environmental accidents

Element 4.5 : Checking and corrective action

- 4.5.1 : Establish routines for monitoring and measurement of the environmental aspects
- 4.5.2 : Establish routines for activities at nonconformities and corrective and preventive actions
- 4.5.3 : Establish routines of how to record monitored values and other documentation
- 4.5.4 : Perform environmental audits upon a regular basis

Element 4.6 : The management review of the environmental management system

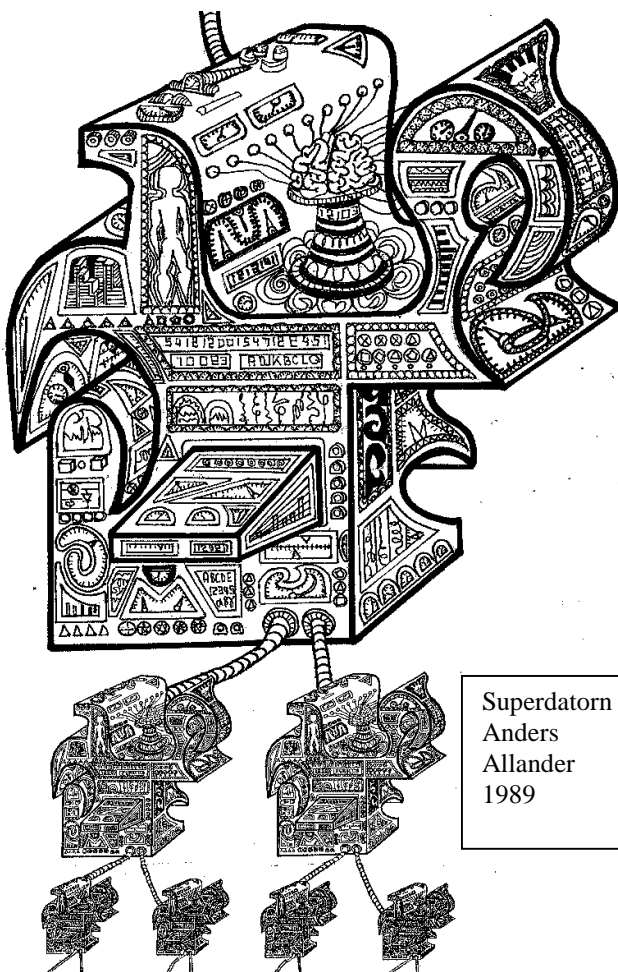
In the picture all elements are linked into each other. This symbolizes the reality where the different elements not completely may be studied independently of each other. It all creates a unit but is built up in a structural way.

The following chapters are divided in the same way as the core elements. Below each one of the core elements there are different parts of the book. Below each part there are points at a further detailed level containing some practical facts.

However first of all it has to be given some information about a recommended project-organization according to chapter 3 below.

There exists some literature about how the environmental management system ISO 14001 is built up. In the following it is not performed any further theoretical deep digging into this. Instead it is demonstrated a practical method of how the work within each one of the core elements. This is done in a simple way making the reader to understand the reality and not only the theory.

The points below the chapters of the core elements also are following the codification of the sub-groups in the system. It is therefore very easy to follow in the book what is to be performed within each core element.



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The hierarchic structure of the book and the environmental management system and the complexity of the system is symbolized by the picture **The Super Computer**.

There will be many sub-systems, calculation charts on PC to keep in order, which also is demonstrated by the computer symbols of the picture.

However still the human brain is in the center of the complete system.