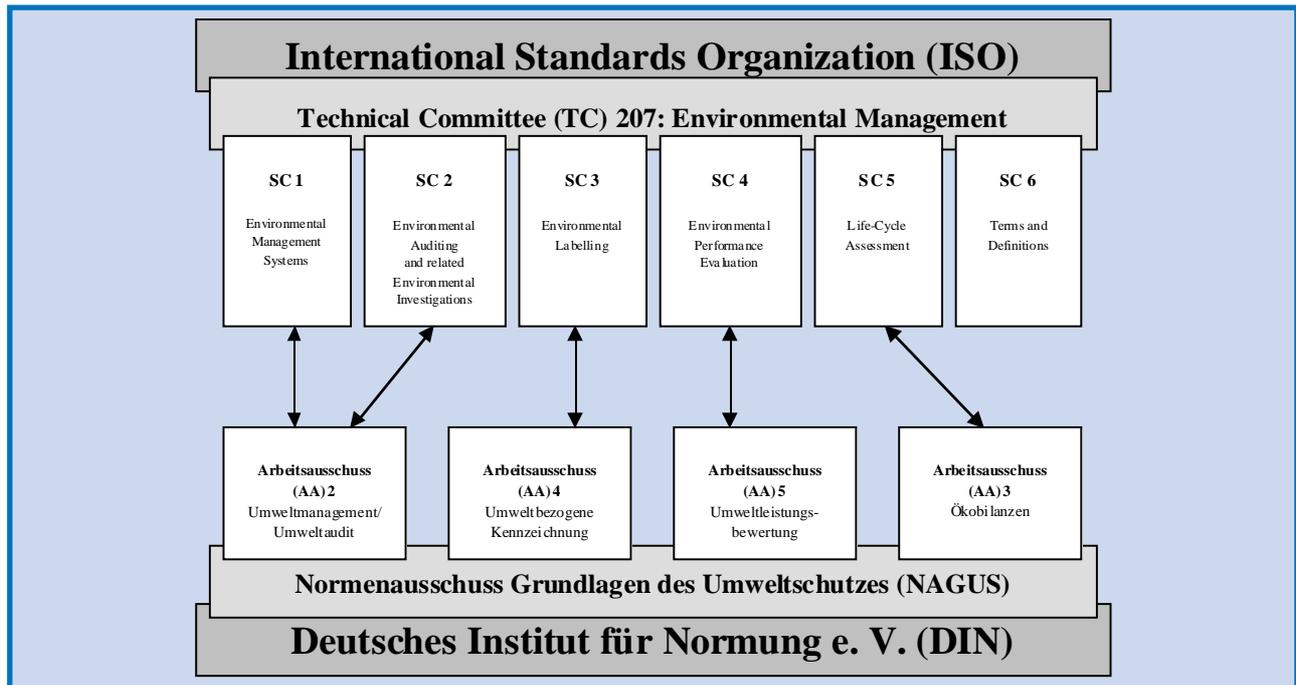


**Within the DIN German Institute for Standardization the Environmental Protection Standards Committee (NAGUS) is the committee responsible for the evolution of basic standards in the field of environmental protection on the national, European and international level.**

NAGUS is responsible for the German participation in ISO/TC 207 Environmental Management. It's working committees are guided by a steering committee.

The experts working in the working committees are from industry and academical backgrounds, from environmental authorities of the government, environmental associations and industry associations as well as from technical supervision, institutions, labour unions and associations of non-commercial end users. They are preparing the German proposals to standard projects according to the principle of consensus.

With the aim to structure standardization in a systematic manner and to take into account an adequate German participation in the work of ISO/TC 207, NAGUS has established the following working committees:



Consequently **Working Committee 2 Environmental Management / Environmental Audit** is also responsible for the German participation in the revision of ISO 14001 and ISO 14004. Furthermore, NAGUS is responsible for the elaboration of national standards in areas of international standardization, which have not as yet been planned.

## DIN/NAGUS

- supports the initiative of ISO/TC 207 and in particular its Sub-Committee SC 1 in the ongoing process of revision to care – for the benefit of the user – for a better understanding and a better compatibility of ISO 14001 without adding additional requirements;
- is of the opinion that other additional proposals shall be considered for future analyses and future developments by SC 1;
- supports the proposals for a clearer presentation of the requirements e. g. for “Evaluation Compliance With Relevant Environmental Legislations And Regulations” and for “Objectives And Targets” as well as proposals for a structure of the standard e.g. “Environmental Aspects”;
- welcomes the intended improvement of compatibility between ISO 14001 and ISO 9001:2000 and supports the updated embedding of ISO 14001 into the ISO 14000 series;
- supports that – for the benefit of the user – annex A of ISO 14001 is maintained as a helpful instrument with a more detailed description and clarification of the complex requirements of the standard;
- welcomes the discussion in ISO/TC 207/SC 1/WG 2 of “Legal Compliance”, “Continual Improvement”, “Environmental Aspects” and “Operational Control” with the view of an improvement during the present revision;
- proposes to discuss the item “Environmental Management – Environmental Communication” in the context of the new work item “Environmental Management – Environmental Communication – Guidance And Examples” of ISO/TC 207;
- supports the finalization of the revision of ISO 14001 and ISO 14004 without delay.

## **Survey of the Federal Association of German Industry (BDI) and the Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce (DIHT) conducted among the users of standards in German industry**

In Germany the so-called HSE-management systems (health, safety, environment) are gaining importance along with the quality management systems already established. For the supply relationship among the market members and for the environmental policy of Germany and Europe, ISO 14001: 1996 has taken on a prominent role quite early on. In particular, small and medium-sized companies use management system standards as guidelines for setting up their own management systems in the field of environmental protection. The European Environmental Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) and ISO 14001:1996 are the focus of attention.

For the preparation of the pending review of ISO 14001:1996 and in cooperation with the Association of the Chemical Industry (VCI), the BDI and the DIHT launched a survey among German industry users of standards at the end of 1999 / beginning of 2000. In principle the questionnaire contained the issues that arose in the review process of ISO TC 207 SC 1 at that time. About 400 companies participated in that survey.<sup>7)</sup>

### **Subject matter and findings of the survey**

#### **Compatibility of ISO 14001 and ISO 9001:**

The companies' responses endorse the work at ISO level. Companies favour a closer alignment of the ISO management standards on environment and on quality in order to enhance the compatibility of the environmental management standard with the ISO 9000 ff series. There was no demand for an integration bringing together the two standards in one Generic Management System Standard.

#### **Legal Compliance Standard – Is there a need for amendment: yes or no?**

The companies in Germany are open to the issue of legal compliance. They follow the requirement of proving that their enterprises comply with legal provisions. They expressed their approval of specifying ISO 14001:1996 according to the EMAS regulations. Companies abstaining or rejecting this do not mean to say that they will not comply with the environmental laws in force, rather they are of the opinion that an "improved" standardisation does not lead to improved legal compliance. Thus they do not expect an added value from the work on ISO TC 207 SC 1.

#### **Initial Environmental Review:**

The European EMAS system already provides for an initial environmental review as a first step for the establishment of an environmental management system. Among the companies that were interviewed, there was basic agreement (50 %) on including also this system element in ISO 14001.

#### **External Communication (Reporting) as a "new" element in ISO 14001?**

This issue is already included in ISO 14001:1996. In view of the increased interest at ISO level in incorporating "environmental reporting" as a topic, the associations of German industry decided to dedicate one question in this questionnaire to that issue. The majority of the companies were against an amendment of ISO 14001:1996 (167). However, a considerable number (142) thinks positively about an amendment. From the associations' perspective this reflects the influences of various factors. On the one hand, environmental reporting has become an established practice in a lot of companies; on the other hand there are already sobering experiences with standardised reporting in accordance with EMAS (no interest among the public).

#### **Is ISO 14001 to be more strongly oriented towards the issues of product-related environmental protection?**

The responses from German industry show a slight majority in favour (158:147). These considerations for a further development of environmental management system standards do not come as a surprise for the associations of German industry, particularly in view of the current European discussion on integrated product policy. This topic was already thoroughly discussed in the revision process for EMAS (1997-2001) and has actually been integrated into EMAS II.

#### **Integration of the ISO 14031 guideline**

The representatives of German industry were clearly against the integration of the ISO 14031 guideline (65 %). With their rejection they do not doubt the merits of an environmental performance evaluation as such, but they doubt that a standardisation in ISO 14001 would be helpful. The reason for this is that this discussion was already held at length when working on ISO 14031.

<sup>7)</sup> The analysis could not be completed in time for the plenary meeting of TC 207 in June 2000 in Stockholm.

## Results of a survey of the German Environment Ministry (BMU) and the Federal Environmental Agency (UBA) on the experience of German organizations implementing ISO 14001

Noting the importance of ISO 14001 and its ongoing revision process BMU and UBA commissioned the survey "Evaluation of the German Experience for developing a German Position in the Revision Process of the International Environmental Management Standard ISO 14001." The objective was to develop concrete recommendations for the revision process won on a broad empirical basis. The survey, lead by Dr. Ludwig Glatzner, was conducted among the 2,300 ISO 14001-certified organizations in Germany and the 34 German certification bodies. The return of 565 questionnaires from the organizations (=25%) and of 17 questionnaires from the certification bodies (=50%) represents 40% of the certifications issued to German organizations. Taking into account the certification bodies included, 90% of the certificates are indirectly represented in the survey.

### The results from the survey can be summarized as follows:

- As worldwide, in Germany the sectors electrical industry and chemical industry are taking the lead.
- Most companies having the ISO 14001 certification have another certification as well (for example EMAS, ISO 9001).
- Main reasons for getting ISO 14001-certification are promoting the image of the company as well as clients demands but internal reasons are also of importance.
- While internal improvements could generally be realized, the expected external benefits (improved image, positive market effect) were not always reached.
- The implementation of an ISO 14001-environmental management system is less costly than of ISO 9001 or of EMAS.
- Users did not see lack of clarity of ISO 14000 or its incompatibility with quality management standards as main problems; rather the cost resulting from time requirements and from administrative requirements.
- The organizations asked referred in detail to clarity and compatibility as subjects of the ongoing revision. They complained mainly about the chapter "environmental aspects" and then about the chapter "documentation" followed by the chapters "objectives" and "targets". Of general concern for all participants is the compatibility between ISO 14000 and ISO 9001. This problem is reaching far beyond single aspects or chapters.
- Even if users also look at different information sources and tools many of their questions regarding ISO 14001 remain often unanswered.. Consequently either consultants are called upon or some kind of hotline or helpdesk is proposed.
- During the audit-process certifiers found that serious deviations concerned mainly
  - a) the correct and complete identification and implementation of legal and other requirements and
  - b) environmental aspects.
- To sum up, users feel that ISO 14001 requirements should be more concrete but should also be enhanced and deepened. More benefits should be reached by public acknowledgement of their participation in the scheme and less efforts should be necessary for the practical implementation.
- The other interested parties outside the group of users consulted during this survey (NGOs, trade unions, economy) pointed to strong and weak points of ISO 14001 in their view, specifically comparing ISO 14001 to the challenging European EMAS-scheme.
- In general the German users regard ISO 14001 fairly positively. They expect it to spread worldwide quickly.

The complete results of the survey are to be published by the Federal Environmental Agency (UBA) in September 2001.

## Elements of the ISO 14001 Environmental Management Standard.

Areas of potential improvement according to the German Standardisation Body, German certification bodies and German industry are highlighted in the table below.

### ELEMENTS OF THE ISO 14001

3	Definitions
3.1	Continual improvement
3.2	Environment
<b>3.3</b>	<b>Environmental aspects</b>
3.4	Environmental impact
3.5	Environmental management system
3.6	Environmental management system audit
3.7	Environmental objective
3.8	Environmental performance
3.9	Environmental policy
3.10	Environmental target
3.11	Interested party
3.12	Organization
3.13	Prevention of pollution
4	Environmental management system requirements
4.1	General requirements
4.2	Environmental policy
4.3	Planning
<b>4.3.1</b>	<b>Environmental aspects</b>
<b>4.3.2</b>	<b>Legal and other requirements</b>
<b>4.3.3</b>	<b>Objectives and targets</b>
4.3.4	Environmental management programme(s)
4.4	Implementation and operation
4.4.1	Structure and responsibility
4.4.2	Training, awareness and competence
4.4.3	Communication
4.4.4	Environmental management system documentation
4.4.5	Document control
<b>4.4.6</b>	<b>Operational control</b>
<b>4.4.7</b>	<b>Emergency preparedness and response</b>
<b>4.5</b>	<b>Checking and corrective action</b>
4.5.1	Monitoring and measurement
4.5.2	Nonconformance and corrective and preventive action
4.5.3	Records
<b>4.5.4</b>	<b>Environmental management system audit</b>
<b>4.6</b>	<b>Management review</b>
5	Annexes
A	Guidance on the use of the specification
B	Links between ISO 14001 and ISO 9001
C	Bibliography

## **In March 2001 more than 27,000 Organisations were certified world-wide according to the international Environmental Management Standard ISO 14001**

The international Environmental Management System Standard came into force in 1996. More than 27,000 organisations have been certified since March 2001 according to the ISO 14001. Japan takes the lead with 6,072 certified organisations, followed by Germany with 2,400, Great Britain with 2,010, Spain with 1,444, United States with 1,420, Sweden with 1,370 and Australia with 1,078 certified organisations.

In Germany the 2,400 ISO 14001 certified organisations are found among the following industry sectors: Chemical Industry, Electrical and Optical equipment, Basic Metals and Fabricated Metal Products, Rubber and Plastic Products, Machinery and Equipment and the Food Industry.

This number can be broken down according to the following sectors of the economy: 74% industry, 19% service and commerce and 3.5% respectively for trades and for others (for example agriculture, authorities etc).

This Information-Flyer reflects the experience of the German users of the ISO 14001 in the year 2000. It contains essential experience and recommendations with regard to the current revision process going on at ISO 14001. These are based on surveys conducted among users, certifiers and interested groups.

Further information on the positions and studies mentioned in this flyer are to be obtained at the addresses given below.

### Edited by:

Dr. Thomas Becker	Federation of German Industries (BDI), Breite Strasse 29, 10178 Berlin
Dr. Ludwig Glatzner	Münster Office for Environment, Quality und Safety, Büchnerstrasse 16, 48147 Münster
Dr. Jochen Höhmann	Henkel KGaA, 40191 Düsseldorf
Dr. Hermann Hüwels	German Association of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (DIHT), Adenauerallee 148, 53127 Bonn
Dr. Petra Jeder	Association of the German Chemical Industry (VCI), Postfach 111943, 60054 Frankfurt
Klaus Lehmann/ Wolfgang Gegusch	DIN German Institute for Standardization e.V. - NAGUS, Burggrafenstrasse 6, 10787 Berlin
Eckart Meyer-Rutz	Federal Environment Ministry, Section G I 5, Alexanderplatz 6, 11055 Berlin
Hartmut Müller	Robert Bosch GmbH, Postfach 106050, 70049 Stuttgart
Reinhard Peglau	Federal Environmental Agency, Section I 2.2, Bismarckplatz 1, 14193 Berlin
Annette Schmidt-Räntsch	Federal Environment Ministry, Section G I 2, Alexanderplatz 6, 11055 Berlin

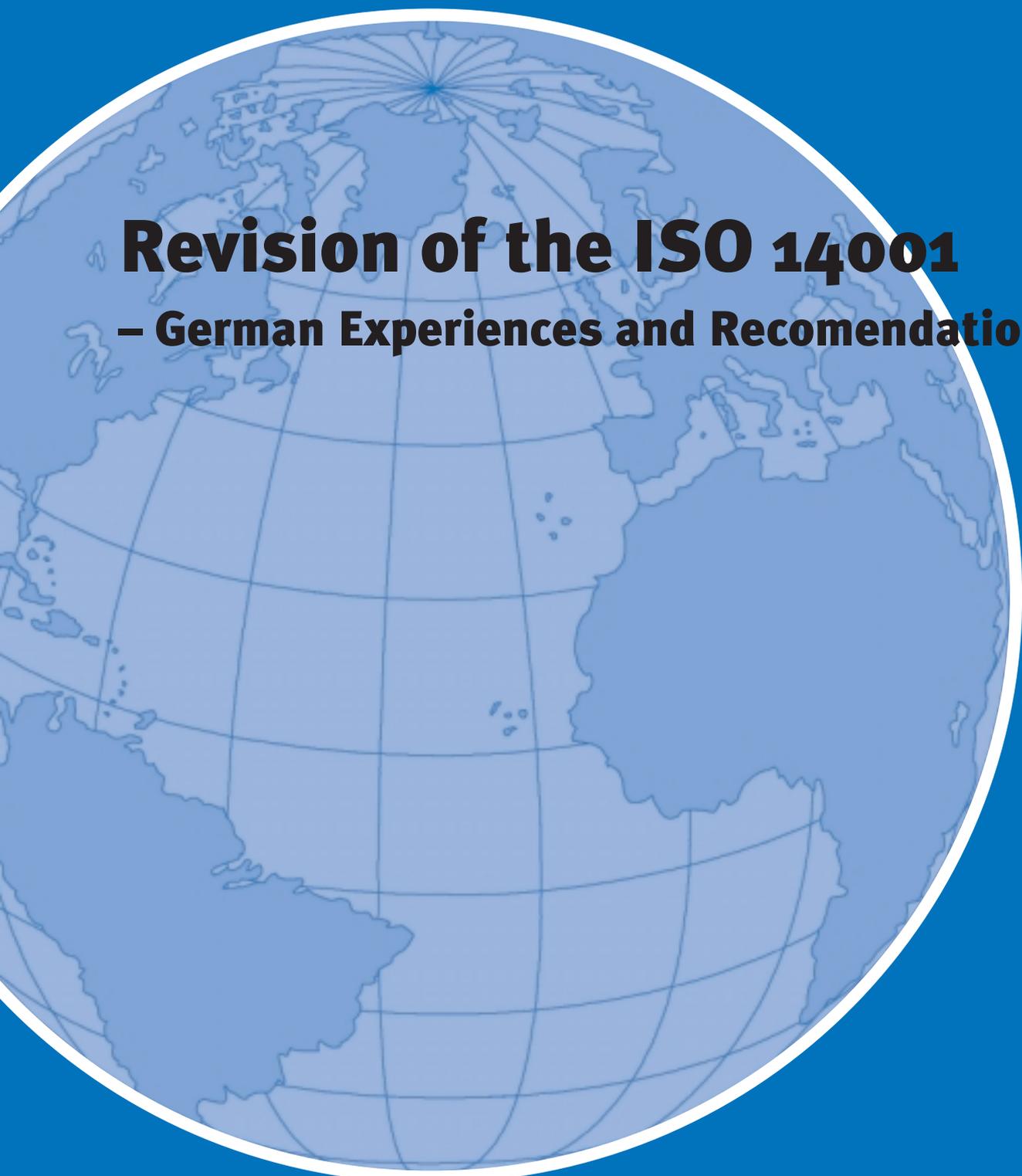
**DIN German Institute for Standardization e.V. (NAGUS)**

**Federation of German Industries (BDI)**

**German Association of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (DIHT)**

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**Federal Environmental Agency (UBA)**



**Revision of the ISO 14001**  
**– German Experiences and Recommendations**