

COMPANY NEWSLETTER

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INSIGHTS & UPDATES

Welcome to the July 2026 edition of Infomatics Consultancy's monthly newsletter.



This month we bring you four key topics shaping the management systems and business landscape across the GCC: the upcoming transition to ISO 14001:2026 and what it means for your Environmental Management System; the critical role of supply chain oversight in food safety; Kuwait's reinforced food safety inspection framework; and the importance of maintaining business resilience well beyond periods of geopolitical uncertainty.

ISO 14001:2026

We hope these insights provide practical value as you continue strengthening your management systems and business performance. As always, our consultants are available to support you through every step of the journey.

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Why Organizations Should Start Preparing Today

Environmental sustainability has become a defining factor in how organizations operate, compete, and grow. Customers are demanding greater environmental responsibility, investors are placing increasing emphasis on Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) performance, and regulators continue to strengthen environmental legislation across industries. In response, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has published ISO 14001:2026, the latest version of the world's leading Environmental Management System (EMS) standard. Rather than introducing a completely new framework, ISO 14001:2026 builds upon the success of the 2015 edition by refining existing requirements, improving clarity, and ensuring organizations are better prepared to address today's environmental challenges. The revised standard maintains the familiar High-Level Structure (Annex SL), allowing seamless integration with ISO 9001 and ISO 45001, while introducing important enhancements that strengthen environmental governance and operational resilience.

□ **Transition Deadline:** Organizations currently certified to ISO 14001:2015 have until April 2029 to complete the transition to ISO 14001:2026.
→ Early preparation is strongly recommended to avoid audit scheduling pressures as the deadline approaches.

Why Was ISO 14001 Updated?

The environmental landscape has changed significantly over the past decade. Climate change, biodiversity loss, water scarcity, resource depletion, and increasing stakeholder expectations have reshaped how organizations manage environmental responsibilities. Businesses are no longer evaluated solely on financial performance — they are increasingly assessed on their ability to operate sustainably and demonstrate responsible environmental stewardship.



ISO 14001:2026 reflects these global developments by strengthening the connection between environmental management and strategic business planning. The revised standard encourages organizations to move beyond regulatory compliance and adopt a proactive approach to identifying environmental risks, improving performance, and creating long-term value.

The Most Significant Changes

1. Environmental Context Becomes More Strategic
Organizations are now expected to consider a wider range of environmental conditions when determining the context of their EMS – including climate change, biodiversity, air quality, and water availability. This broader perspective enables better understanding of both organizational impacts on the environment and the environmental conditions that may affect long-term business continuity.

2. Introduction of Clause 6.3 – Planning for Changes
One of the most notable additions is Clause 6.3, which establishes a formal approach to managing planned organizational changes. Before implementing significant changes – such as introducing new technology, expanding facilities, or restructuring operations – organizations must assess potential environmental impacts and establish appropriate controls prior to implementation. This promotes proactive risk management rather than reactive corrective action.

3. Stronger Supply Chain Environmental Control
Environmental responsibility now extends beyond the organization's own facilities

ISO 14001:2026 replaces the traditional concept of 'outsourced processes' with a broader focus on externally provided processes, products, and services. Suppliers, contractors, and service providers all contribute to an organization's environmental performance, and the revised standard expects organizations to strengthen supplier criteria and monitor contractor performance accordingly.

4. Enhanced Leadership and Governance

The revised standard reinforces the role of top management in driving environmental performance. Environmental management is no longer viewed as the sole responsibility of a single department. Leadership is expected to actively support environmental objectives, allocate appropriate resources, and integrate sustainability into strategic decision-making.



5. Improved Performance Evaluation

ISO 14001:2026 also strengthens requirements for internal audits, management reviews, and continual improvement. Internal audit programmes must include clearly defined objectives, while management reviews have been reorganized to provide a more structured approach to evaluating EMS performance.

Beyond Compliance: A Strategic Opportunity

ISO 14001:2026 offers far more than a certification requirement. It provides an opportunity to improve operational efficiency, strengthen environmental governance, enhance stakeholder confidence, and better position the organization for future sustainability expectations. Organizations that embrace the revised standard will be better equipped to respond to evolving environmental regulations, satisfy customer requirements, and improve ESG performance.

Budget Planning for Certification

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How Infomatics Consultancy Can Support Your Transition

Transitioning to ISO 14001:2026 requires more than updating documents — it requires understanding how the revised requirements influence business processes, leadership responsibilities, supplier management, and continual improvement. Our consultants support organizations through every stage of the transition process, including gap assessments, documentation review, implementation support, internal auditor training, awareness programmes, and certification readiness assessments.

Organizations that act early will not only maintain compliance but will also gain a competitive advantage in an increasingly sustainability-focused marketplace.



Strengthening Food Safety Through Effective Supply Chain Management

Food safety has become one of the most critical priorities for organizations operating within the food and retail sectors. As consumers increasingly expect safe, high-quality products, businesses must ensure that food safety controls extend beyond their own facilities to include suppliers, central kitchens, logistics providers, and distribution partners.

The Central Kitchen Risk

Central kitchens play a vital role in supplying multiple retail outlets and restaurants. While this centralized model improves operational efficiency and consistency, it also increases risk. A single failure in food handling, storage, or transportation can impact numerous locations simultaneously – affecting consumer health and causing significant reputational damage.

To minimize these risks, organizations should establish comprehensive supplier monitoring programmes that incorporate the following controls:

- Routine audits and food safety inspections of supplier and central kitchen facilities
- Traceability verification to track product origin and movement throughout the supply chain
- Temperature monitoring and cold chain management controls
- Staff competency assessments and documented food safety training
- Regular HACCP or ISO 22000 management system reviews

Building a Food Safety Culture

Sustainable food safety cannot rely solely on regulatory compliance. Organizations must develop an internal culture where food safety is integrated into daily operations and supported by internationally recognized management systems such as ISO 22000 and HACCP. Businesses that invest in preventive food safety practices consistently benefit from:

- Improved operational efficiency and reduced wastage
- Stronger customer and consumer confidence
- Reduced business risk and liability exposure
- Enhanced brand reputation and competitive positioning

Food safety is not simply about meeting legal requirements – it is about protecting consumers while ensuring long-term business sustainability.



Kuwait's Proactive Food Safety Inspections: What Businesses Need to Know

Kuwait continues to strengthen its food safety regulatory framework, with the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) conducting intensive and ongoing inspection campaigns across all governorates. Recent activity underscores that food safety enforcement in Kuwait is proactive, systematic, and increasingly rigorous — and that businesses operating in the food sector must ensure full compliance at all times.

A Snapshot of Recent Enforcement Activity

In May 2026, inspection teams in the Ahmadi Governorate visited 333 food outlets as part of an intensive monitoring campaign. The results were significant: 55 violations were issued and three establishments received closure and reopening orders. The most common violations identified included:

- Operating without a valid health licence
- Failure to comply with hygiene and sanitation requirements
- Handling or preparing food without valid health certificates for staff

Earlier in April 2026, the PAFN reaffirmed that inspection campaigns focus on three core criteria: compliance with health requirements, the safety and certification of workers, and the validity and proper storage of food products. Authorities have made clear that there is zero tolerance for breaches that could impact consumer health.

□ *Key Message: Enforcement is year-round and covers all governorates.*
→ *Health licences, staff certifications, hygiene compliance, and proper food storage are the primary inspection focus areas.*
→ *Violations can result in immediate closure orders as well as financial penalties*

What This Means for Food Businesses in Kuwait

The intensified inspection environment reflects a broader commitment by Kuwaiti authorities to maintaining high food safety standards in line with international benchmarks. For food businesses operating in Kuwait, this reinforces the need to:

- Maintain current and valid health licences for all premises and staff
- Implement documented food safety management systems aligned with ISO 22000 or HACCP requirements
- Conduct regular internal audits and supplier verification activities
- Ensure robust cold chain management and proper product storage controls
- Invest in continuous staff food safety training and competency assessment

Kuwait's Proactive Food Safety Inspections: What Businesses Need to Know

Organizations that implement internationally recognized Food Safety Management Systems are consistently better positioned to pass regulatory inspections, demonstrate compliance to regulators and customers, and protect both consumer health and business reputation.

How Infomatics Consultancy Can Help

Infomatics Consultancy supports food sector clients across Kuwait and the GCC in implementing, documenting, and maintaining ISO 22000 Food Safety Management Systems, HACCP programmes, and supplier audit frameworks. Whether you are preparing for regulatory inspections, seeking ISO certification, or looking to strengthen your internal food safety culture, our team provides practical, implementation-focused consultancy tailored to your sector and operations.



When the Headlines Fade, Business Risks Remain

Periods of geopolitical uncertainty often place organizations under significant operational pressure. While businesses naturally welcome signs of stability, the end of a crisis should not signal the end of preparedness. History has consistently shown that the most significant business impacts frequently emerge after major events – not during them.

Supply chain disruptions, inflationary pressures, transportation delays, fluctuating energy costs, and changing customer behaviour can continue to affect organizations long after political tensions begin to ease. For businesses operating across the GCC, maintaining resilience requires continuous assessment rather than temporary reaction.

Building Resilience Before the Next Disruption

Organizations should use periods of relative stability to review and strengthen operational resilience. Practical actions include:

- Reviewing critical suppliers and identifying alternative sourcing options
- Updating risk assessments and contingency plans to reflect current operating conditions
- Monitoring operating costs, pricing strategies, and margin exposure
- Protecting cash flow and working capital through proactive financial planning
- Testing emergency response and recovery procedures before they are needed
- Strengthening communication protocols with key customers, suppliers, and stakeholders

The Role of ISO 22301 Business Continuity Management

International standards such as ISO 22301 Business Continuity Management Systems provide organizations with a structured framework for anticipating disruptions, minimizing operational downtime, and ensuring business continuity during periods of uncertainty. Organizations that invest in implementing a certified BCMS are better equipped to:

- Identify and prioritize critical business activities and dependencies
- Establish recovery time and recovery point objectives for key operations
- Build documented recovery plans that are tested and regularly updated
- Demonstrate resilience capability to customers, regulators, and investors

□ **Key Principle: Resilience is not built during a crisis – it is built long before the crisis begins.**

→ **Organizations that act during periods of stability will be best positioned to sustain performance during the next period of disruption.**

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