

RC14001[®]:2013

Technical Specification



RESPONSIBLE CARE[®]
OUR COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

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Formatting Note

This Technical Specification Document includes references to international standard ISO 14001:2004 – Environmental Management Systems and additional Responsible Care elements following each section of the standard. This is intended to assist organizations and auditors in understanding the relationship between ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems Standard and the expanded Responsible Care scope of this document. Both the ISO 14001 and the Responsible Care requirements shall be included in order for an organization to receive certification of its RC14001 management system.

ISO 14001

This Technical Specification document includes relevant provisions of the text of international standard ISO-14001:2004 – Environmental Management Systems. The text of ISO14001 is the first set of requirements in each numbered section of this document (beginning on page 6).

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Table of Contents

Introduction	Page 4
Specification Requirements	Page 6
Appendix 1 Definitions and Interpretations	Page 18
Appendix 2 ACC Responsible Care Initiative Requirements	Page 22
Appendix 3 Responsible Care Organizations and Contacts	Page 23
Appendix 4 References and Resources	Page 27
Appendix 5 The Nature and Purpose of the RC14001 Technical Specification	Page 28
Document Control Information	Page 31

Introduction

Responsible Care

Responsible Care is an initiative managed by chemical associations, developed and adopted along with their member companies to continuously improve environmental, health and safety (EHS) performance of their operations and products in a manner responsive to the concerns of the public. Responsible Care was first adopted as a new model for the management of chemicals by the Chemistry Industry Association of Canada (CIAC), formerly the Canadian Chemical Producers Association (CCPA), in 1985 and has since been adopted by chemical associations and their members in more than 57 national and regional chemical industry associations. Responsible Care is the basis of significant cultural change within the chemical industry which leads to improved performance and new levels of dialogue with the public about issues of mutual concern.

The global chemical industry has embraced Responsible Care because it is viewed as “good citizenship” with a positive impact on companies’ economic bottom line and competitiveness. For the individual company, implementation of Responsible Care leads to improved efficiency, lower environment, health and safety costs and improved relations with stakeholders. For the global chemical industry, successful implementation of Responsible Care demonstrates an appropriate public policy which protects its license to operate and its ability to innovate and meet society’s demands for its products. For the public, successful implementation of Responsible Care ensures that the chemical industry will continue to provide beneficial products to society and continually reduce its impacts, while maximizing its positive contributions to human health, the economy and society.

One of the key tenets of Responsible Care is openness and responsiveness to public and other stakeholder concerns about the management of chemicals. Therefore, the chemical industry has a keen appreciation of the need to seek input from the public and other interested groups, include this input in its development of policies, programs and priorities, and report on its progress in these areas.

RC14001

RC14001 was originally developed by the American Chemistry Council (www.americanchemistry.com) for use by its members and Responsible Care Partners as part of its Responsible Care certification process and reflects ACC program priorities (e.g., Security). The RC14001 Technical Specification set forth below combines the elements of the American Chemistry Council’s (“ACC”) Responsible Care initiative with those of the ISO 14001 Environmental Management System, adopted by the International Organization for Standardization (“ISO”) in 1996 and as amended in 2004. RC14001 enables a company to obtain, through an application and audit process, a certification that its management system conforms to both the ISO 14001 standard and a broader scope of Responsible Care elements. For ACC’s members and Responsible Care Partners,