

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

**Environmental management—
Environmental assessment of sites and
organizations (EASO)**

AS/NZS ISO 14015:2003

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee QR-011, Environmental Management Systems. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 16 May 2003 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 8 July 2003. It was published on 25 July 2003.

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RECONFIRMATION
OF
AS/NZS ISO 14015:2003
Environmental management—Environmental assessment of sites and organizations
(EASO)

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NOTES

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee QR-011, Environmental Management Systems.

This Standard is identical with, and has been reproduced, from ISO 14015:2001, *Environmental management — Environmental assessment of sites and organizations (EASO)*.

The objective of this Standard is to provide parties to an assessment, such as the client or assessor, with the methodology of conducting an EASO through a systematic process of identifying environmental aspects, environmental issues, determining any business consequences, and their roles and responsibilities in this assessment process.

As this Standard is reproduced from an international standard, the following applies:

- (a) Its number appears on the cover and title page while the international standard number appears only on the cover.
- (b) In the source text ‘this International Standard’ should read ‘this Australian/New Zealand Standard’.
- (c) A full point substitutes for a comma when referring to a decimal marker.

None of the normative references in the source document have been adopted as Australian or Australian/New Zealand Standards.

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INTRODUCTION

Organizations are increasingly interested in understanding the environmental issues associated with their sites and activities or those of potential acquisitions. These issues and their associated business consequences can be appraised by means of an Environmental Assessment of the Site and Organization (EASO). Such an assessment may be carried out during operations or at the time of acquisition or divestiture of assets and may be conducted as part of a broader business assessment process often referred to as "due diligence".

This International Standard gives guidance on how to conduct an EASO. It provides the basis for harmonization of the terminology used and for a structured, consistent, transparent and objective approach to conducting such environmental assessments. It can be used by all organizations, including small- and medium-sized enterprises, operating anywhere in the world. This International Standard is flexible in its application and may be used for self-assessments as well as external assessments, with or without the need to employ third parties. The users of this International Standard are expected to be industry, past, present and possible future users of particular sites, and organizations with a financial interest in the industry or site (e.g. banks, insurance companies, investors and site owners). This International Standard is likely to be used in connection with the transfer of responsibilities and obligations.

The information used during an EASO may be derived from sources that include environmental management system audits, regulatory compliance audits, environmental impact assessments, environmental performance evaluations or site investigations. Some of these assessments or investigations may have been conducted using other relevant ISO standards (e.g. ISO 14001, ISO 14011 or ISO 14031).

Through the process of evaluating both existing and newly acquired information, an EASO seeks to draw conclusions relating to business consequences associated with environmental aspects and issues.

Conclusions in an EASO should be based on objective information. In the absence of validated information, an EASO assessor may be required to exercise professional judgement in evaluating the available environmental information and drawing conclusions.

This International Standard does not provide guidance on intrusive investigations or site remediation. However, if requested by the client, these may be undertaken in accordance with other standards or procedures.

AUSTRALIAN/NEW ZEALAND STANDARD

Environmental management—Environmental assessment of sites and organizations (EASO)

1 Scope

This International Standard provides guidance on how to conduct an EASO through a systematic process of identifying environmental aspects and environmental issues and determining, if appropriate, their business consequences.

This International Standard covers the roles and responsibilities of the parties to the assessment (the client, the assessor and the representative of the assessee), and the stages of the assessment process (planning, information gathering and validation, evaluation and reporting). The process for conducting an EASO is shown in Figure 1.

This International Standard does not provide guidance on how to conduct other types of environmental assessment, such as:

- a) initial environmental reviews;
- b) environmental audits (including environmental management system and regulatory compliance audits);
- c) environmental impact assessments; or
- d) environmental performance evaluations.

Intrusive investigations and site remediation, as well as the decision to proceed with them, are outside the scope of this International Standard.

This International Standard is not intended for use as a specification standard for certification or registration purposes or for the establishment of environmental management system requirements.

Use of this International Standard does not imply that other standards and legislation are imposed on the client or the assessee.