

BS ISO 50001 – Frequently Asked Questions

What is BS ISO 50001?

BS ISO 50001 is the new international standard for energy management systems – published by BSI Group on 15th June 2011 in the UK. It defines the latest best practice for energy management. The standard, which uses the plan, do, check, act framework familiar in other management systems, was developed over several years by the world's leading energy management experts, representing over 60 countries.

Is BS ISO 50001 right for my organization?

BS ISO 50001 can help organizations of all types, public sector, governmental, corporations, small or medium sized businesses across all sectors save money by saving wasted energy. You will be able to implement the processes necessary to understand your baseline energy usage, put in place action plans, targets and energy performance indicators for reducing consumption and identify, prioritise, and record opportunities for improving energy efficiency and therefore energy performance.

What will happen to BS EN 16001?

It is anticipated that BS ISO 50001 will replace BS EN 16001, which will most likely be withdrawn from use in mid 2012, although exact timelines for its adoption within Europe have yet to be finalized. As with all national or regional standards when they are to be superseded by international ones, the issuing national or regional standards body, in this case the European Centre for Standardisation (CEN), will vote to formally adopt the standard for use in Europe. Once this happens BS EN 16001 will be removed from publication by all the CEN standards bodies, and BS EN ISO 50001 will become the title of the one official British, European, and International standard. But you can start using it now to make those savings.

What happens if I am certified to BS EN 16001?

The new standard provides a similar plan, do, check, act framework to BS EN 16001 using a slightly different approach and terminology. For existing BSI certification customers there is a transition checklist available which identifies the key areas of change. Your BSI Client Manager will start the process of reviewing your organization's progress against the requirements of BS ISO 50001 at no extra charge during your continuing assessment visits over the next eighteen month transition period. When you have successfully demonstrated compliance to the new standard you will be issued with a

certificate for BS ISO 50001. If you are a certification customer and have more questions about this transition please contact your BSI Client Manager.

Where can I buy BS ISO 50001?

BS ISO 50001 is now available online on BSI's Shop: <http://shop.bsigroup.com/bsiso50001> or through BSI Customer Services on **020 8996 9001**.

What other services are available from BSI Group?

BSI will be offering a full package of updated guidance publications, new training courses, BS ISO 50001 certification, Entropy software, and a Kitemark for Energy Reduction Verification (ERV) to help our clients achieve energy management best practice. For more information visit: <http://www.bsigroup.com/energymanagement>

How does BS ISO 50001 help companies to reduce energy consumption?

BS ISO 50001 puts in place a logical framework for consistently managing energy efficiency projects within a company, it enables you to prioritize and coordinate the implementation of the many potential point solutions for reducing energy use. These may include technical ones, such as voltage optimization, variable speed drives, low energy lighting, updated heating, air-conditioning and ventilation equipment, and importantly behaviour change of the users of equipment. It is perhaps the strongest benefit of BS ISO 50001 to go beyond purely technological solutions that many companies are already choosing to implement and to encourage and empower the efficient use of energy by your people.

Exactly how does BS ISO 50001 work?

For the real detail you should buy the standard, and guidance book. Or you could go on one of our training courses to explain this or to help you implement or audit an energy management system. But in summary: once management responsibility is established, and an energy policy drafted, a team should be put in place to scope the boundaries of the management system and start the energy review within those. This identifies the significant uses of various types of energy from fuels to electricity and enables a company to establish a baseline consumption rate for a given productivity. Then energy performance indicators, targets and action plans to achieve those targeted reductions are needed.

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The normal training, competency checking and documentation, reviews of any management system overlay this approach.

What is the difference between BS EN 16001 and BS ISO 50001?

The standards aim to achieve the same thing. To reduce energy use, and therefore costs and greenhouse gas emissions by being consistent and transparent about its management. BS ISO 50001 has come from a wider consensus, 60 countries were involved which has meant it taking on slightly different terms, subtly different details and a slightly changed structure of clauses. For example the energy aspects assessment required in the European standard has now gone, and is replaced by a broader energy review looking at significant energy uses and influencers of those. There are new terms like baseline and energy performance indicator as well. BS ISO 50001 is best practice in 2011, whereas the European standard was best practice two years ago.

Are many companies certifying to BS ISO 50001?

Leading companies are already applying for certification immediately, to differentiate themselves from their competitors. We have seen a strong increase of interest from countries outside Europe since the standard published in June, and BSI is going through the process of certifying its first customers right now. BSI Clients that are due to have BS EN 16001 assessments are being offered the chance to switch to the new standard. We expect more to follow, as they want to prove that they are being responsible about their energy use to their clients, investors, stakeholders.

Can I be certified to BS ISO 50001 without having ISO 14001 certification?

Yes! BS ISO 50001 has been developed to be a stand-alone management system. If energy is your organization's most significant environmental impact it might be more appropriate to look at BS ISO 50001 as a first step on the way to demonstrating greater environmental responsibility to your stakeholders.

I've already got ISO 14001, why would I need to look at BS ISO 50001?

If energy is one of your most significant environmental aspects, you may benefit from having an increased focus in this area. Whilst ISO 14001 will help you identify the quick wins,

BS ISO 50001 gives you a systematic framework for managing energy with a focus on continual improvement in energy efficiency.

Can't I just use my ISO 14001 system to manage my energy related matters?

Yes. Many organisations successfully manage their energy via their ISO 14001 system. BS ISO 50001 provides a more specific framework that enables an organization to apply a greater focus on energy efficiency. Some of our clients really are finding there's more they can do in terms of reducing energy usage as a result of this more specific focus.

Is one more appropriate than the other?

ISO 14001 requires an organization to consider and manage all of its significant environmental impacts. However, if energy is by far the main environmental impact of your organization, then BS ISO 50001 may be a more appropriate first step. Also, if you are a significant user of energy then you may benefit from the increased rigour that BS ISO 50001 requires as an addition to your existing environmental management system.

Can I have joint certification?

Yes. If your systems for meeting ISO 14001 and BS ISO 50001 are integrated then we will be able to assess both standards at the same time.

Why do I need an International standard – can't I just keep my BS EN 16001 running?

You can in the short term, but BS ISO 50001 will replace BS EN 16001 as stated above. BSI is migrating all current certification customers with BS EN 16001 certificates over an 18 month period at no extra cost. BS ISO 50001 represents the most up to date global thinking on the subject, so this is a logical progression, such as occurs when any management system standard is updated. You will now be able to benefit from this advancement and continue to improve your energy efficiency.

If you have any other questions about BS ISO 50001, to book a training course, enquire about certification, software or the Kitemark ERV the please contact 0845 086 9000 or visit:

<http://www.bsigroup.com/energymanagement>