ICTQual AB

Qualification Specification

ICTQual ISO 14001:2026 EMS (Environmental Management System) Lead Auditor Course

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ICTQual AB's

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Qualification Specification about

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About ICTQual AB's

ICTQual AB is a distinguished awarding body based in the United Kingdom, dedicated to fostering excellence in education, training, and skills development. Committed to global standards, ICTQual AB's provides internationally recognized qualifications that empower individuals and organizations to thrive in an increasingly competitive world. Their offerings span diverse industries, including technical fields, health and safety, management, and more, ensuring relevance and adaptability to modern workforce needs.

ICTQual AB's delivers high-quality educational solutions through a network of Approved Training Centres worldwide. Their robust standards and innovative teaching methodologies equip learners with practical knowledge and skills for personal and professional growth. With a mission to inspire lifelong learning and drive positive change, ICTQual AB's continuously evolves its programs to stay ahead of industry trends and technological advancements.

Course Overview

The **ICTQual ISO 14001:2026 EMS (Environmental Management System) Lead Auditor Course** is a prestigious, advanced vocational qualification designed for professionals seeking mastery in the auditing of Environmental Management Systems (EMS). This program allows learners to refine their expertise in international auditing standards, environmental risk assessment, and strategic compliance management. By integrating scientific environmental principles with rigorous auditing methodologies, the course empowers learners to lead high-level audits while emphasizing corporate responsibility, sustainability, and global environmental protection.

Course Aims

The primary aims of this diploma are to:

- **Elevate Professional Standards:** Provide an advanced educational pathway for practitioners to achieve mastery in environmental auditing and management practices.

- **Foster Leadership:** Cultivate leadership, consultancy, and research skills to prepare graduates to lead audit teams, manage complex EMS initiatives, and drive organizational sustainability.
- **Promote Environmental Responsibility:** Instill a deep understanding of the ethical considerations and regulatory requirements necessary for the protection of global ecosystems.
- **Enable Career Progression:** Equip learners with the strategic decision-making skills and technical excellence required for senior auditing roles and higher vocational progression.

Key Objectives

Upon successful completion of this qualification, learners will be able to:

- **Apply Advanced Auditing Techniques:** Execute highly specialized audit methods in accordance with ISO 19011 and ISO 14001:2026.
- **Evaluate Complex Environmental Aspects:** Demonstrate mastery in identifying and assessing environmental impacts with scientific and regulatory accuracy.
- **Design Audit Programs:** Develop and execute innovative audit strategies for multi-national or high-impact organizations.
- **Lead Audit Teams:** Successfully manage audit cycles, oversee compliance initiatives, and provide independent environmental consultancy.

Targeted Audience

- **Environmental Professionals:** Practitioners looking to elevate their existing skills to a lead auditor level.
- **Quality and Compliance Managers:** Individuals seeking advanced technical knowledge in environmental standards and integrated management systems.
- **Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE) Specialists:** Professionals responsible for organizational compliance and environmental performance.
- **Sustainability Consultants:** Practitioners aiming to move into senior leadership or independent consultancy roles within the environmental sector.
- **Vocational Scholars:** Individuals seeking a formal, high-level qualification to bridge the gap toward further academic or higher vocational progression in environmental science or management.

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Certification Framework

Qualification title	**ICTQual ISO 14001:2026 EMS (Environmental Management System) Lead Auditor Course**
Course ID	ISOLAC0051
Total Qualification Time	40 Hours
Guided Learning Hours	20 Hours
Grading Type	Pass / Fail
Competency Evaluation	Coursework / Assignments / Verifiable Experience
Assessment	The assessment and verification process for ICTQual AB's qualifications involves two key stages: **Internal Assessment and Verification:** ✓ Conducted by the staff at the Approved Training Centre (ATC) to ensure learners meet the required standards through continuous assessments. ✓ Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) is carried out by the centre's IQA staff to validate the assessment process. **External Quality Assurance:** ✓ Managed by ICTQual AB's verifiers, who periodically review the centre's assessment and IQA processes. Verifies that assessments are conducted to the required standards and ensures consistency across centres

Entry Requirements

To enrol in ICTQual ISO 14001:2026 EMS (Environmental Management System) Lead Auditor Course, learner must meet the following entry requirements:

- ✓ **Age Requirement:** Learners must be at least 18 years old at the time of enrolment.
- ✓ **Educational Background:** A minimum of a high school diploma or equivalent qualification is required. A diploma or degree in environmental science, engineering, sustainability, occupational health & safety, natural sciences, or business management is highly advantageous.
- ✓ **Professional Experience:** Participants should have prior knowledge of Environmental Management Systems and preferably have completed an ISO 14001 Internal Auditor course or equivalent training. Relevant experience in environmental compliance, sustainability management, auditing, EHS, or regulatory affairs is strongly recommended.
- ✓ **English Proficiency:** Participants should have a good understanding of English and strong communication skills to lead audit teams, conduct interviews, and prepare professional audit reports.

Qualification Structure

This qualification comprises 6 mandatory units, totalling 04 credits. Candidates must successfully complete all mandatory units to achieve the qualification.

Mandatory Units	
Unit Ref#	**Unit Title**
ISOLAC0051-01	Conformity Assessment & Certification Frameworks
ISOLAC0051-02	Advanced Interpretation of ISO 14001:2026
ISOLAC0051-03	Strategic Audit Planning & Audit Team Leadership
ISOLAC0051-04	Stage 1 & Stage 2 EMS Audit Execution
ISOLAC0051-05	AI, Remote Sensing & Predictive Environmental Risk Analytics
ISOLAC0051-06	Audit Conclusions, Reporting & Certification Decisions

Centre Requirements

To ensure quality training delivery, centres must adhere to the following standards:

1. Centre Approval

- ✓ Centres must be formally approved by ICTQual AB's before delivering this qualification.
- ✓ Approval involves a review of facilities, policies, and staff qualifications.

2. Qualified Staff

- ✓ **Tutors:** hold a Bachelor's Degree (Level 6) or higher in Environmental Science, Environmental Engineering, or a related sustainability field, complemented by a Lead Auditor certification in ISO 14001.
- ✓ **Assessors:** Must hold a recognized assessor qualification (e.g., CAVA, AVRA) or equivalent)
- ✓ **Internal Quality Assurers (IQAs):** Must hold a recognized IQA qualification (e.g. Level 4 Award in the IQA and Level 4 Certificate in Leading the IQA) and experience to oversee assessment standards.

3. Learning Facilities

Centre must offer:

- ✓ Private study areas and internet-enabled workspaces (for blended or physical delivery)
- ✓ Academic and pastoral support for learners
- ✓ Administrative support must be available to manage enrolment, tracking, and learner queries efficiently

4. Health and Safety Compliance

- ✓ All training facilities must comply with health and safety regulations.

- ✓ Centres must conduct regular risk assessments for practical activities.

5. Learning Resources

- ✓ **Course Materials:** Approved textbooks, study guides, and digital content must align with the qualification standards.
- ✓ **Assessment Tools:** Templates and guidelines must be provided to ensure standardized evaluation processes.
- ✓ **E-Learning Support:** Centres offering online or blended learning must implement an effective Learning Management System (LMS).

6. Assessment and Quality Assurance

- ✓ Centres must ensure assessments meet ICTQual AB's competency standards.
- ✓ Internal quality assurance (IQA) must be conducted to maintain consistency.
- ✓ External verifiers from ICTQual AB's will review assessment and training practices.

7. Learning Support

- ✓ **Qualification Guidance:** Support for coursework and assignments.
- ✓ **Career Pathway Assistance:** Information on progression opportunities in taxidermy, animal preservation, or museum conservation sectors.
- ✓ **Accessibility Support:** Accommodations for learners with disabilities or language barriers.

8. Policies and Compliance

Centres must uphold the following policies in accordance with ICTQual AB's standards:

- ✓ Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy.
- ✓ Health and Safety Policy.
- ✓ Safeguarding and Learner Protection Policy.
- ✓ Complaints and Appeals Procedure.
- ✓ Data Protection and Confidentiality Policy.

9. Reporting Requirements

- Centres must provide ICTQual AB's with regular reports on learner registrations, progress, and certification outcomes.
- Assessment records must be maintained for external auditing and quality assurance purposes.

Support for Candidates

Centres should ensure that materials developed to support candidates:

- ✓ Facilitate tracking of achievements as candidate's progress through the learning outcomes and assessment criteria.
- ✓ Include information on how and where ICTQual AB's policies and procedures can be accessed.
- ✓ Provide mechanisms for Internal and External Quality Assurance staff to verify and authenticate evidence effectively.

This approach ensures transparency, supports candidates' learning journeys, and upholds quality assurance standards.

Assessment

This qualification is competence-based, requiring candidates to demonstrate high-level strategic proficiency as defined in the qualification units. The assessment evaluates the candidate's skills, knowledge, and understanding against the set standards. Key details include:

Assessment Process:

- Must be conducted by an experienced and qualified assessor.
- Candidates compile a portfolio of evidence that satisfies all learning outcomes and assessment criteria for each unit.

Types of Evidence:

- Assignments, detailed research projects, or strategic reports.
- Professional discussions.
- Candidate-produced strategic work (e.g., policy drafts, financial models).
- Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).

Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria:

- **Learning Outcomes:** Define what candidates should know, understand, or accomplish upon completing the unit.
- **Assessment Criteria:** Detail the standards candidates must meet to demonstrate that the learning outcomes have been achieved.

Unit Descriptors

ISOLAC0051-01- Conformity Assessment & Certification Frameworks

Conformity Assessment and Certification Frameworks provide the structured methodology for verifying that an organization's management system consistently meets international standards and regulatory requirements. These frameworks establish a standardized language of "compliance" and "conformity," ensuring that the processes used to evaluate an Environmental Management System (EMS) are both rigorous and impartial.

Learning Outcome:	Assessment Criteria:
1. **Understand conformity assessment processes, accreditation systems, and EMS certification pathways.**	1.1 Explain the purpose and principles of conformity assessment within Environmental Management Systems (EMS). 1.2 Describe the role of accreditation bodies and certification bodies in EMS certification processes. 1.3 Identify the stages involved in ISO 14001 certification and surveillance activities. 1.4 Evaluate the relationship between conformity assessment requirements and organisational compliance obligations.
2. **Differentiate between first-, second-, and third-party audits within environmental certification frameworks.**	2.1 Define first-, second-, and third-party audits in accordance with environmental management standards. 2.2 Compare the objectives, scope, and responsibilities associated with different audit types. 2.3 Assess the importance of auditor independence and impartiality within certification frameworks. 2.4 Analyse how different audit approaches contribute to environmental compliance and continual improvement.
3. **Apply international auditing and certification guidelines to ensure compliance readiness.**	3.1 Interpret relevant international auditing principles and certification guidelines applicable to EMS audits. 3.2 Apply audit planning and preparation techniques to support certification readiness. 3.3 Evaluate organisational documentation and operational controls against ISO 14001 requirements. 3.4 Recommend corrective actions and compliance improvement measures based on audit findings.

4. Use digital audit management systems to track certification status, documentation, and audit timelines.	4.1 Explain the purpose and benefits of digital audit management systems in EMS auditing activities. 4.2 Demonstrate the use of digital tools to record audit findings and manage certification documentation. 4.3 Monitor audit schedules, certification timelines, and corrective action status using digital systems. 4.4 Assess the effectiveness of digital audit management systems in supporting compliance monitoring and reporting.

ISOLAC0051-02- Advanced Interpretation of ISO 14001:2026

The aim of an Advanced Interpretation of ISO 14001:2026 is to transcend basic regulatory compliance by embedding environmental stewardship into the core of an organization's strategic governance. It seeks to leverage real-time data analytics and AI-driven insights to transition from reactive monitoring to proactive, predictive risk management across the entire value chain. By focusing on a "cradle-to-grave" perspective, this approach aligns environmental objectives with global ESG mandates and climate resilience strategies, ensuring long-term financial viability.

Learning Outcome:	Assessment Criteria:
1. **Interpret complex ISO 14001:2026 requirements and evaluate their application across diverse operational environments.**	1.1 Interpret the key requirements and clauses of ISO 14001:2026 within different organisational contexts. 1.2 Evaluate the application of ISO 14001:2026 requirements across varied operational environments and industries. 1.3 Analyse organisational processes to determine conformity with EMS requirements and objectives. 1.4 Recommend appropriate implementation strategies to address complex environmental management challenges.
2. **Assess environmental aspects, impacts, and compliance obligations using structured evaluation methods.**	2.1 Identify environmental aspects and associated impacts arising from organisational activities, products, and services. 2.2 Apply structured evaluation methods to determine the significance of environmental aspects and impacts. 2.3 Assess legal, regulatory, and other compliance obligations relevant to environmental management activities. 2.4 Evaluate the effectiveness of controls established to manage significant environmental risks and compliance requirements.
3. **Analyze environmental performance data using digital monitoring systems and analytics tools.**	3.1 Explain the role of digital monitoring systems and analytics tools in environmental performance management. 3.2 Analyse environmental performance data to identify trends, risks, and areas for improvement. 3.3 Evaluate the accuracy and reliability of environmental monitoring data and reporting processes.

	3.4 Use analytical findings to support evidence-based environmental decision-making and continual improvement initiatives.
4. Provide expert guidance on maintaining EMS compliance and improving environmental performance.	4.1 Advise organisations on maintaining compliance with ISO 14001:2026 requirements and environmental obligations. 4.2 Recommend corrective and preventive actions to address nonconformities and improve EMS effectiveness. 4.3 Evaluate strategies for continual improvement of environmental performance and sustainability outcomes. 4.4 Provide professional guidance to support environmental awareness, competence, and organisational best practices.

ISOLAC0051-03- Strategic Audit Planning & Audit Team Leadership

To achieve a high-level Strategic Audit Planning & Audit Team Leadership framework, one must move beyond traditional checklists to align audit activities with the organization's most critical risks and long-term objectives. Strategic planning involves a top-down assessment of the business landscape to prioritize high-impact areas, while effective leadership ensures the audit team remains objective, technically proficient, and adaptable to emerging digital tools.

Learning Outcome:	Assessment Criteria:
1. **Develop strategic, risk-based audit plans aligned with environmental priorities and regulatory obligations.**	1.1 Explain the principles and objectives of risk-based audit planning within Environmental Management Systems (EMS). 1.2 Develop audit plans that align with organisational environmental priorities and compliance obligations. 1.3 Evaluate environmental risks and operational impacts to determine audit scope and frequency. 1.4 Assess the effectiveness of strategic audit planning in supporting continual improvement and regulatory compliance.
2. **Lead audit teams effectively using digital collaboration and workflow management tools.**	2.1 Explain the role of digital collaboration and workflow management tools in audit team coordination. 2.2 Demonstrate effective leadership techniques when managing audit teams during EMS audit activities. 2.3 Use digital systems to assign tasks, monitor progress, and maintain audit communication records. 2.4 Evaluate the effectiveness of digital collaboration methods in improving audit efficiency and team performance.
3. **Allocate resources and assign audit responsibilities based on environmental risks and performance data.**	3.1 Identify resource requirements necessary for conducting effective EMS audits. 3.2 Allocate audit resources according to identified environmental risks and organisational priorities. 3.3 Assign audit roles and responsibilities based on competence, experience, and audit objectives. 3.4 Evaluate environmental performance data to support informed audit resource planning and decision-making.

4. **Apply leadership and communication skills to ensure objective, efficient, and value-driven audits.**

4.1 Apply effective communication techniques during audit planning, execution, and reporting activities.

4.2 Demonstrate leadership skills that support objectivity, impartiality, and professional conduct during audits.

4.3 Manage audit team interactions and stakeholder communications to ensure efficient audit processes.

4.4 Evaluate how leadership and communication practices contribute to value-driven audit outcomes and continual improvement.

ISOLAC0051-04- Stage 1 & Stage 2 EMS Audit Execution

The execution of Stage 1 and Stage 2 EMS Audits serves as the critical transition from theoretical documentation to verified operational performance. In Stage 1, the primary aim is to evaluate the organization's "audit readiness" by conducting a high-level review of the management system documentation and ensuring that the scope, environmental aspects, and legal requirements are accurately defined. Stage 2 involves an intensive, on-site deep dive where the audit team verifies that the documented system is effectively implemented and maintained through interviews, site observations, and data sampling.

Learning Outcome:	Assessment Criteria:
1. **Conduct Stage 1 and Stage 2 EMS audits in accordance with ISO certification requirements.**	1.1 Explain the purpose, scope, and requirements of Stage 1 and Stage 2 EMS audits. 1.2 Conduct Stage 1 audit activities to evaluate EMS documentation and organisational readiness for certification. 1.3 Conduct Stage 2 audit activities to assess implementation and effectiveness of the Environmental Management System. 1.4 Evaluate audit evidence to determine conformity with ISO 14001:2026 certification requirements.
2. **Use digital audit tools and remote auditing technologies to collect and verify environmental evidence.**	2.1 Explain the role of digital audit tools and remote auditing technologies in EMS audit activities. 2.2 Use digital systems to collect, record, and manage environmental audit evidence. 2.3 Apply remote auditing techniques to verify operational processes and compliance information. 2.4 Evaluate the reliability, security, and effectiveness of digital and remote auditing methods.
3. **Evaluate operational controls, legal compliance, and environmental performance.**	3.1 Assess operational controls implemented to manage significant environmental aspects and impacts. 3.2 Evaluate organisational compliance with applicable environmental legislation and regulatory requirements. 3.3 Analyse environmental performance indicators to determine EMS effectiveness and continual improvement outcomes. 3.4 Identify nonconformities, risks, and improvement opportunities related to environmental management activities.

4. **Document findings using electronic reporting systems to ensure transparency and traceability.**

4.1 Explain the importance of electronic reporting systems in EMS audit documentation and traceability.
4.2 Record audit findings accurately using digital reporting and documentation systems.
4.3 Prepare audit reports that clearly present evidence, nonconformities, and corrective action requirements.
4.4 Evaluate the effectiveness of electronic reporting processes in supporting transparency, accountability, and audit follow-up activities.

ISOLAC0051-05- AI, Remote Sensing & Predictive Environmental Risk Analytics

The integration of AI, Remote Sensing, and Predictive Environmental Risk Analytics represents the technological frontier of modern environmental management, shifting the focus from historical reporting to real-time foresight. Remote Sensing via satellite imagery and IoT sensors provides a continuous stream of geospatial data, allowing organizations to monitor land use, emissions, and resource depletion across vast or inaccessible sites. When processed through AI and Machine Learning algorithms, this raw data is transformed into Predictive Analytics that can identify patterns and forecast potential environmental failures—such as pipeline leaks or habitat degradation—before they occur.

Learning Outcome:	Assessment Criteria:
1. Apply AI analytics and remote sensing technologies to monitor environmental performance indicators.	1.1 Explain the role of AI analytics and remote sensing technologies in environmental monitoring and management. 1.2 Apply AI-based analytical tools to evaluate environmental performance indicators and operational trends. 1.3 Use remote sensing technologies to collect and interpret environmental monitoring data. 1.4 Assess the effectiveness of AI and remote sensing applications in supporting EMS performance and compliance objectives.
2. Use predictive analytics to identify trends, potential environmental risks, and compliance gaps.	2.1 Explain the principles and applications of predictive analytics within environmental management systems. 2.2 Analyse environmental data trends to identify potential risks, nonconformities, and compliance gaps. 2.3 Apply predictive analytical methods to support proactive environmental risk management and decision-making. 2.4 Evaluate the reliability and limitations of predictive analytics in forecasting environmental performance outcomes.
3. Integrate real-time environmental data from sensors and monitoring systems into audit evaluations.	3.1 Identify sources of real-time environmental data generated through sensors and monitoring systems. 3.2 Integrate real-time monitoring data into EMS audit planning and evaluation activities. 3.3 Analyse sensor-generated environmental information to assess operational controls and compliance performance.

	3.4 Evaluate the contribution of real-time environmental data to evidence-based auditing and continual improvement processes.
4. Address data integrity, cybersecurity, and reliability considerations in digital environmental monitoring.	4.1 Explain the importance of data integrity and cybersecurity in digital environmental monitoring systems. 4.2 Identify risks associated with data reliability, unauthorised access, and digital system vulnerabilities. 4.3 Apply appropriate controls to protect environmental monitoring data and maintain system reliability. 4.4 Evaluate the effectiveness of cybersecurity and data management practices in supporting accurate environmental reporting and compliance activities.

ISOLAC0051-06- Audit Conclusions, Reporting & Certification Decisions

The final phase of Audit Conclusions, Reporting, and Certification Decisions represents the formal synthesis of all audit evidence into a definitive judgment on the system's effectiveness. Audit Conclusions are reached by aggregating findings and non-conformities to determine if the management system fulfills the intended requirements and demonstrates a commitment to continuous improvement. The resulting Audit Report must provide a transparent, objective narrative that communicates the organization's environmental performance and systemic maturity to top management.

Learning Outcome:	Assessment Criteria:
1. Formulate audit conclusions based on objective evidence and data-supported findings.	1.1 Explain the principles for developing audit conclusions based on objective evidence and audit criteria. 1.2 Analyse audit findings and environmental performance data to determine levels of conformity and nonconformity. 1.3 Evaluate the sufficiency, reliability, and relevance of audit evidence collected during EMS audits. 1.4 Formulate justified audit conclusions that support accurate and evidence-based decision-making.
2. Prepare clear, professional EMS audit reports using digital reporting tools.	2.1 Explain the purpose and structure of professional EMS audit reports. 2.2 Use digital reporting tools to document audit findings, evidence, and corrective action requirements. 2.3 Prepare audit reports that communicate conclusions clearly, accurately, and professionally to relevant stakeholders. 2.4 Evaluate the effectiveness of digital reporting systems in supporting audit transparency, consistency, and traceability.
3. Recommend certification decisions aligned with compliance status and audit outcomes.	3.1 Explain the criteria and processes used to support EMS certification decisions. 3.2 Assess organisational compliance status against ISO 14001:2026 certification requirements. 3.3 Recommend certification outcomes based on audit evidence, nonconformities, and corrective action status. 3.4 Evaluate the implications of certification decisions for organisational compliance and continual improvement activities.

4. **Uphold ethical principles, impartiality, and professional integrity in environmental auditing practices.**

4.1 Explain ethical principles and professional responsibilities applicable to environmental auditing practices.
4.2 Demonstrate impartiality, confidentiality, and professional conduct during EMS audit activities.
4.3 Identify situations that may create conflicts of interest or compromise audit objectivity.
4.4 Evaluate the importance of ethical behaviour and professional integrity in maintaining credibility and trust in certification processes.

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