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Environmental management systems—General guidelines on principles, systems and support techniques

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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 19 November 2004 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 26 November 2004.
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The following are represented on Committee QR-011:

Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy
Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Australian Environment Business Network
Australian and New Zealand Clinical Waste Management Industry Group
Business New Zealand
Certification Interests (Australia)
Consumers' Federation of Australia
Corporate Environmental Managers Group
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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee QR-011, Environmental Management Systems and supersedes AS/NZS ISO 14004:1996.

The objective of this Standard is to provide guidance on the establishment, implementation, maintenance and improvement of an environmental management system (EMS) and its coordination with other management systems.

It is identical with, and has been reproduced from, ISO 14004:2004, *Environmental management systems—General guidelines on principles, systems and support techniques*.

This edition of the Standard includes more explanation of 'aspects' and 'impacts' and their significance. Clauses have been expanded to more clearly explain them, as they were not understood previously. There is more explanation also of legal compliance.

The term 'informative' is used to define the application of the annex to which it applies. An informative annex is only for information and guidance.

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