



**American Chemistry Council
Responsible Care[®] Certification
Transition to RCMS[®]:2008 and RC14001[®]:2008 Technical Specifications
March 14, 2008**

The transition period from the 2005 version to the 2008 version of RCMS and RC14001 Technical Specifications will end on July 31, 2009 and is defined as follows

A. Companies Certifying to RCMS – no surveillance

Companies certifying locations to RCMS in 2008 using the current ACC HQ and sampling model (certification audit with no surveillance) may elect to use either the 2005 or 2008 versions of the RCMS Technical Specification. The certification will be issued to the technical specification audited. After January 1, 2009, all certification audits under this process will use the 2008 version only.

B. Transition from RC14001:2005 to RC14001:2008

1. Initial Phase (up to nine months ending January 1, 2009)

When the Audit Service Provider (ASP) agrees with the existing and/or new client organization on whether RC14001:2005 or RC14001:2008 is to be used as the audit criteria, the standard being used shall be identified in the audit plan for initial audit, surveillance or reassessment. If RC14001:2005 is to be used, the ASP shall ensure that procedures for assessment and certification to the new technical specification (2008) are in place.

2. Implementation Date (beginning January 1, 2009)

Beginning January 1, 2009, all audit plans prepared for existing and new client organizations shall include RC14001:2008 as the audit criteria.

3. Extra Visits by ASPs

Additional visits by the ASPs to assess solely against revisions to the technical specification are not required.

4. Nonconformities (during a further seven months to July 31, 2009)

For existing organizations that are certified to RC14001:2005, nonconformities against the elements of the new (2008) technical specification should be raised.

These nonconformities will not adversely affect certification until the end of the transition period.

5. Certificates

The RC14001 technical specification indicated on any certificate shall be consistent with the standard identified on the audit plan. For existing organizations it is expected that RC14001 certificates will be renewed based on the outcome of the periodic visits in applying the new technical specification. This renewal should not change the previous certification cycle unless a complete reassessment audit takes place. All existing certificates shall be renewed as conforming to the new technical specification version before the end of the transition period (see item 6 below).

6. End of Transition Period (July 31, 2009)

By July 31, 2009, any existing accredited certificates to RC14001:2005 will no longer be valid*. Outstanding nonconformities to the new standard will become active and will affect certification/registration.

* - Validity in this case means that the certificate is voided and cannot be used for external purposes. For ACC purposes, a location that is certified counts against a company's ACC sample group regardless of whether the certificate is maintained through successful surveillance.

7. Accreditation body assessment

ACC's designated accreditation body(ies) assessment visits will cover the ASP plans for effectively managing the transition.

C. Transition for Companies Obtaining a Corporate RCMS Certification (As described in RC201.04, Section 5.3.10)

Companies electing this option for certification shall follow the process outlined for the RC14001 transition in Section B above.

D. Inquiries and Information

All inquiries regarding this transition process shall be directed to the American Chemistry Council's Technical Oversight Board (TOB). Please contact Dan Rocznik at dan_roczniak@americanchemistry.com