



**Responsible Care<sup>®</sup> Certification Process  
Transition to RCMS<sup>®</sup>: 2013 and RC14001<sup>®</sup>: 2013  
Frequently Asked Questions**

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) has published revised requirements (enhancements) to both the Responsible Care Management System and Responsible Care RC14001 Technical Specifications. These additional requirements affect current certified ACC Members facilities and their Partner companies. The changes became effective on January 1, 2014.

**Q. Does this change apply to my organization or certificate?**

All new certificates issued after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 (whether RCMS or RC14001) will be issued to the new 2013 technical specification requirements.

**Q. Are the requirements significantly different?**

Generally no, but new requirements have been added along with a few new definitions from the 2008 to 2013 versions. The most notable changes are noted below.

- RCMS:**
- 2.0 Planning - 2.1 states “activities associated with its operations including operational energy efficiency and waste minimization, reuse and recycling.”
  - 3.0 - Implementation, Operation and Accountability 3.4 states “verify competency for persons performing those tasks directly related to the organizations prioritized EHSS risks.”
  - 4.0 Performance Measurement, Corrective and Preventive Action
    - 4.2 – now includes other RC related requirements the organization subscribes too.
    - 4.3 – process to conduct internal audits related to the effectiveness of the system. Audits shall occur at planned intervals with review of previous audits and changes to the management system included.
    - 4.4 - has a process to work with regarding “third party providers, suppliers, vendors...”
    - 4.6.1 – shall have a process to identify, investigate and assign significance...
    - 4.6.2 – (e) review the efficacy of corrective and preventive actions taken.
  - 5.0 Management Review – “outputs from the management reviews shall include any decisions and actions related to possible changes to the policy, goals, objectives and targets and other elements of the RCMS.
- Appendix 2 –
- Responsible Care Guiding Principals signed by Executive Contact
  - Implementation of RC Security Code
  - Implementation of RC Product Safety Code
  - Implementation of RC Process Safety Code

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**RC14001:** 4.3.1. Environmental Aspects RCMS requires that organizations shall also consider operational energy efficiency and waste minimization, reuse and recycling when identifying its aspects and impacts.  
4.4.6. Operational Controls RCMS requires that an organization has a process to work with regarding “third party providers...”  
Appendix 2 – RC Initiative Requirements focuses on key items (see RCMS section above)

### Q. How do I learn about the changes?

The RCMS 2013 and RC14001 2013 Technical Specifications are available through the American Chemistry Council website: <http://www.americanchemistry.com>

There is also a link to a document that summarizes the most significant changes: <http://responsiblecare.americanchemistry.com/2013-Program-Enhancements>

### Q. What happens during our 2014 Registration, Surveillance or Reassessment Audit?

Your NSF Lead Auditor and team members will be using the 2013 Technical Specifications to audit your organization. In addition, as mentioned previously your certificate will be issued to those requirements.

### Q. How do I get more information?

Contact Jim Herrmann, NSF’s Lead Auditor by email: [jherrmann@nsf.org](mailto:jherrmann@nsf.org)

Regards,



James Herrmann  
Senior Lead Auditor, EMS