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Question: 1

An internal auditor of a manufacturer of aluminium products for the car industry asked to see the most recent management review minutes and found no reference to the completion of some of the current environmental objectives. He raised a nonconformity against section 9.3.c of ISO 14001 in Report IA202. The nonconformity (NC3) stated:

"Top management has not analysed why some of the environmental objectives have been met since the last management review."

When discussing the finding with the Environmental Manager, the auditor was informed that planned actions taken to complete the current environmental objectives were specifically covered in the internal audit programme and did not need any further work done.

Select one of the options which would constitute an effective response by the Environmental Manager to the nonconformity.

- A. Revise the incomplete environmental objectives to make them more achievable within 12 months.
- B. Schedule additional internal audits in the internal audit programme for the next year, specifically to cover the completion of all environmental objectives.
- C. Reject the non-conformity. Objectives do not have to be met within a year. Plans on how to achieve objectives are established and reviewed when conducting the internal audit programme.
- D. Embark on a training programme for internal auditors on the setting and evaluation of environmental objectives.

Answer: B

Question: 2

What are the primary purposes of implementing an EMS based on ISO 14001:2015? Select two.

- A. It provides a means by which environmental impacts are addressed at relevant stages of the life cycle.
- B. It is used to demonstrate to external parties that the organisation has met all its legal requirements.
- C. It enables the organisation to tender for government-funded contracts.
- D. It provides a framework for protecting the environment.
- E. It improves the organisation's financial results.
- F. It ensures that organisations operate fully online management systems.

Answer: A, D

Explanation:

According to ISO 14001:2015 Clause 1 (Scope) and Clause 6.1.2:

Clause 1:

“The purpose of this International Standard is to provide organizations with a framework to protect the environment and respond to changing environmental conditions in balance with socio-economic needs.”

Clause 6.1.2:

“The organization shall determine the environmental aspects of its activities, products and services that it can control and influence, considering a life cycle perspective.”

Demonstrating legal compliance (B) is part of the intended outcomes but not the primary purpose.

Tender eligibility (C), financial results (E), and system format (F) are not stated objectives of ISO 14001:2015.

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Question: 3

A management system meeting ISO 14001:2015 requirements is based on the Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) cycle.

Which two elements of the management system are part of the 'Check' stage of the PDCA cycle?

- A. Control of the processes
- B. Environmental policy
- C. Improvement
- D. Nonconformities
- E. Management review
- F. Monitoring performance

Answer: D, F

Explanation:

As per ISO 14001:2015 Clause 10 (Improvement) and Clause 9 (Performance Evaluation):

The 'Check' phase includes activities that evaluate performance, such as:

Clause 9.1:

“The organization shall monitor, measure, analyze and evaluate its environmental performance.”

Clause 10.2:

“When a nonconformity occurs, the organization shall react to the nonconformity, evaluate the need for corrective action.”

Management review is part of the 'Act' phase (Clause 9.3), and Environmental Policy (Clause 5.2) belongs to 'Plan'.

Question: 4

XM, a chain of 25 petrol stations, established an EMS following the requirements of ISO 14001, which was third-party certified 10 years ago. You are performing an internal audit before the fourth certification cycle.

During the audit to the EMS Manager (EM), the following dialogue takes place:

You: Could you please give me some details on the inspection of underground tanks in each station?

EM: It's very simple. There is a regulation that requires an annual leak inspection.

You: Who performs these inspections?

EM: I personally contract the inspectors and submit the results to the local authority. These are the certificates submitted last year.

You: I see only 22 certificates. There are three missing.

EM: The tanks of those three stations will be removed next year and replaced by new ones. I phoned the local authority and they told me that I do not need to send any report of the tanks that will be changed.

Which one of the following would be your next question?

- A. Have you planned any final disposal of the tanks to be removed?
- B. Can I see the contract XM signed with the inspector?
- C. Did you ask the local authority to send a written confirmation of their decision?
- D. Can I see the plan for the installation of the new tanks?

Answer: C

Explanation:

According to ISO 14001:2015 Clause 9.1.2 (Compliance Obligations) and Clause 7.4 (Communication):

The organization must retain evidence of compliance obligations and communications with regulatory bodies.

Verbal confirmation from the authority is insufficient; written confirmation ensures objective evidence for audit purposes.

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Question: 5

Which two of the following documents are not required for documentation review by an auditor conducting a Stage 1 certification audit to ISO 14001?

- A. A list of planned emergency responses
- B. An internal audit schedule

- C. An organisation's financial statement
- D. A management review record
- E. Documented information on the environmental objectives
- F. List of environmental aspects

Answer: C, D

Explanation:

According to ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 Clause 9.3.2.1 and ISO 14001:2015:

Stage 1 focuses on evaluating management system documentation (e.g., environmental aspects, objectives, emergency preparedness, audit schedule).

Financial statements (C) are not relevant to EMS certification.

Management review records (D) may not yet be available at Stage 1 if the EMS is not fully implemented.

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