



RC 14001 or RCMS: Which is Best for My Facility?

Jerry Skaggs, P.E.

Regional Program Manager

US and Canada

Environmental Family of Standards



RC 14001 / RMCS Which is Best?

Why Pursue RC 14001 or RCMS??

Member of ACC or SOCMA.

Customer Requirement / Request.

Desire to promote increase awareness of facility processes with stakeholders.

Management said to.



RC 14001 / RMCS Which is Best?

Brief Overview of RC 14001

Encompasses all of ISO 14001

Includes health and safety.

Includes Responsible Care[®]



RC 14001 / RMCS Which is Best?

Brief Overview of RCMS

Often referred to as RC “light.”

Does not include all ISO 14001 requirements.

Includes Responsible Care[®] Guiding Principles.



RC 14001 / RMCS Which is Best?

Brief Overview of RC 14001 / RCMS

Includes products, processes, customers, stakeholder communications and outreach programs, mutual assistance, carriers, distributors, contractors, and third party providers.



RC 14001 / RMCS Which is Best?

Codes of Management Practice

Community Awareness and Emergency Response (CAER)

Pollution Prevention

Employee Health and Safety

Distribution

Process Safety

Product Stewardship

Security



RC 14001 / RMCS Which is Best?

OK, Which One??

Standard selection can be a function of the 6 C's:

- ◎ Corporate Culture;
- ◎ Customer Requirements;
- ◎ Cost;
- ◎ Conformance;
- ◎ Credibility; and
- ◎ Certification.



RC 14001 / RMCS Which is Best?

Corporate Culture

The first decision any company needs to make is which standard they wish to become registered, RC14001 or RCMS. The selection may depend on customer requirements, Company philosophy, or regulatory requirement.

This will then energize the implementation team and provide the overall direction.



RC 14001 / RMCS Which is Best?

Corporate Culture (continued)

Reporting requirements related to Sarbanes-Oxley (SOX) may result in an increased community awareness of facility activities.

Corporate culture may desire to be a good steward of the environment through interaction with local stakeholders. Your facility may be the largest area employer, then community depends on you.



RC 14001 / RMCS Which is Best?

Corporate Culture (continued)

If the commitment does not come from Senior Management, then Program implementation typically is doomed to failure from the start.



RC 14001 / RMCS Which is Best?

Customer Requirements

Tier 1 suppliers to the Big Three Automotive require conformance to ISO 14001. The Tier 1 suppliers are pushing this requirement down.

Other customers may either require or indicate a desire for conformance to ISO 14001, RC 14001, RCMS, Health and Safety Systems.



RC 14001 / RMCS Which is Best?

Cost

Due to the nature of the RC 14001 Standard, the total costs will be higher than RCMS, due to:

- More audit days to conduct RC 14001;
- Annual assessments for RC 14001 (RCMS requires a number of sites to be sampled in three year increments); and / or
- Increased ASP requirements for RC 14001, therefore, potential for higher day rate.



RC 14001 / RMCS Which is Best?

Conformance

Member companies of the ACC and SOCMA are required to conform to the requirements of either RC 14001 or RCMS as a condition of membership.

Some facilities may be mandated to develop a Responsible Care based system as part of an ROD.



RC 14001 / RMCS Which is Best?

Credibility

Effective implementation of either RC 14001 or RCMS can result in an increased community awareness and comfort with operations.

You may be the key employer in the area. Being credible with the community will enhance your standing.



RC 14001 / RMCS Which is Best?

Certification

RC 14001 will result in a Certificate of Registration, not only for RC 14001, but also ISO 14001, and potentially Health and Safety.

RCMS typically results in a Letter of Conformance. A Certificate of Registration can be issued if annual assessments are maintained consistent with registrar requirements.



RC 14001 / RMCS Which is Best?

Now What??

The next step is to determine which of the two approaches will serve your facility best.

The decision may be based on the 6 C's previously discussed or include additional data or parameters.



RC 14001 / RMCS Which is Best?

Now What?? (continued)

Consideration must be made relative to short and long range plans.

If you plan to become a registered to ISO 14001, RC 14001 may be a better approach.



RC 14001 / RMCS Which is Best?

You can “mix and match” your options

If you have eight facilities, you can determine your business needs and register any number of facilities to either standard. For example, three will be RC 14001 and five RCMS.



RC 14001 / RMCS Which is Best?

Items to Remember

The decision of which program should reflect current and future business considerations.

While cost is always a consideration, benefits of a properly implemented system can outweigh the cost through the identification of process improvements.



RC 14001 / RMCS Which is Best?

If you have any questions, comments or concerns about RC 14001 or RCMS, please feel free to contact me at:

Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.

412.777.9843

jerry.skaggs@us.ul.com