



# The **TURNER & COATES** 14<sup>OVER</sup> YEARS OF EXCELLENCE AS STANDARD **Global Examiner**

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## Helping set new standards in Responsible Care



**Important changes have recently been introduced which will revolutionise the way in which the Responsible Care (RC) Management Standard applies and operates worldwide.**

Firstly, it is important to note that these changes comprise additional RC requirements, and not the Standard's embedded ISO 14001 requirements.

### **Aa Key Textual Changes**

Firstly, the terms *"communicate, flow of information, feedback and share"* have been added, indicating the need for ongoing dialogue. These new terms should not be taken to mean simply providing information as and when required. Communication channels should always be open with relevant, up-to-date information constantly available, wherever possible.

The next requirement added to the RC Management Standard is *"understanding the organisation's significant RC environmental, health, safety and security risks and their potential consequences."* In order to accurately demonstrate thorough understanding of this, it is important to give a senior member of your team sole responsibility for monitoring ongoing company performance in relation to the above. This person will also need have visible involvement in setting your organisation's relevant policy, procedures and requirements.

The next change relates to *"actively promoting a visible culture of RC environment, health, safety and security continual improvement throughout."*

Your company or organisation will be able to sufficiently prove compliance with this through via various more 'traditional' methods of communication such as emails, meetings and so on. Similarly, the last textual change - *"encouraging openness in raising concerns and identifying opportunities for improvement."* In real terms, it is highly likely that most companies will have already addressed this through their policies and procedures.

### **Compliance Obligations**

Any organisations participating in, committed to, or implementing a RC programme approved by the International Council of Chemical Association (ICCA) shall now have to include the programme's requirements when identifying their compliance obligations. Whereas RC was seen universally as the ACC's (American Chemistry Council's) Standard, it is now being adopted worldwide. It is vital that you adhere to any further requirements of your regional or

national Industry Association. This should have little - if any - impact on our US clients, as you already follow ACC rules and they will, presumably, inform you of any changes moving forward. In short, it's about recognising what additional needs (defined by your regional council/program) you are required to follow.

### **Emergency Preparedness and Response**

Rewording has been applied to areas of this key area of the Standard, in order to establish 'appropriate' mutual aid resource agreements and plans.

Likewise, the Standard now instructs you, as an organisation, to respond, where appropriate, to raw material, product, waste material and any transportation incidents. In truth, this should have negligible impact on the vast majority of our clients, as most (if not all) of you already take full responsibility for all incidents relating to all materials under your control.

Lastly, you are now required to ensure that your company's 'Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan' encompasses the impact on your site, resulting from an off-site emergency, ranging from personnel availability to full plant shut-downs due to local issues, such as neighbour disputes. We would envisage this being either temporarily or permanently controlled by your change management process.

***If you are unsure of any areas of the new RC standard, then please contact us today. We're always happy to help!***

Contact us now on **+44 (0)161 660 8656** to discover how we could help your business!

**For total inspection, expediting and management systems implementation and auditing solutions, a FREE copy of our brochure or a no-obligation quote, call now on 0161 660 8656 (within UK) or +1 (404) 462 5729 (from North America)!\***

