

Legislation Outlook

May 2026



This monthly legislation briefing will help you plan for the maintenance of your ISO 14001, ISO 22301, ISO 27001, ISO 45001 and ISO 50001 systems. We will provide advance warning about important legislation that will affect compliance with these standards, including relevant news, newly published guidance and government consultations, and any other significant legislation beyond the scope of the standards listed, which may potentially impact your organisation. We don't waste your time on items such as an increase in administrative fees, we only report on items of value.

This month sees amendments to guidance on preventing cyber attacks, small-scale abstractions for construction dewatering and a consultation on potential changes to the RIDDOR 2023 regulations.

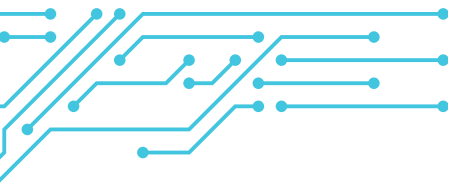
Upcoming Standard-Related Legislation

There is no long lead-time standard-related legislation to report this month.

News

Better Flood Protection Target Exceeded

The Environment Agency have announced that they have exceeded their target in increasing flood defences and protecting homes and businesses which were previously vulnerable to flooding. Given the wet winter at the beginning of 2026, this has become even more urgent as despite the efforts of the Environment Agency some homes were still flooded, though many were also protected, where they previously wouldn't have been.



Guidance

UK NCSC Issues Guidance for Preventing 'Severe' Cyber attacks

The U.K. National Cyber Security Centre published guidance to assist organisations in building defensive capabilities for the prevention of a "severe cyber threat" as threat actors are developing and increasing their capabilities. AI is now accelerating the need for strong defences to combat that risk. Commitment to building up defences including company leadership, organisation-wide collaboration, engaging with suppliers and partners, and advance planning for an attack will be essential going forward.

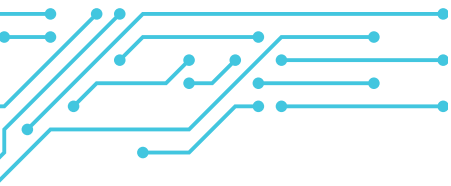
Companies should check their resilience to incidents of a more serious nature by testing their incident response plans. Key response measures that are the "hardest to make under pressure" in the aftermath of an incident should be identified and recorded. The goal must be to get ahead of the threat and build resilience. Click for the [full story](#).

Small-scale Abstractions for Construction Dewatering: RPS 368

The Environment Agency has released [RPS](#) guidance which applies to small-scale single abstraction or series of abstractions of groundwater under 270-days duration to dewater a construction site because of a high water-table. This small-scale abstraction (or abstractions) allows construction or maintenance of building or engineering works by pumping groundwater directly from the site.

To comply with this, you must follow the requirements in relation to record keeping, managing and operating small-scale abstraction, impacts on the other water users and statutory authorities, preventing environmental harm, and quantity limits when returning water to a watercourse.

The Environment Agency intends to review this RPS by 31st December 2027.



Consultations

HSE Launches Consultation on Workplace Injury and Illness Reporting

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has launched a [public consultation](#) on 'The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013' (RIDDOR) which is designed to strengthen protections for workers and reduce the administrative burden for businesses in relation to both legislative and non-legislative changes. For more on this, please see the [full story](#).

The consultation will close on 30th June 2026.

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