

## **TIER IV- ENVIRONMENTAL STAR**

The base for Tier IV is Tier III. The final goal of Tier IV is ISO 14001 certification. It is suggested that you review the materials on the ISO14000 Family of International Standards website (<http://www.iso.ch/iso/en/prods-services/otherpubs/iso14000/index.html>) then, go thru one to two cycles of external audits before attempting certification.

The International Standards Organization, a non-governmental organization, is a network of the national standards institutes of 147 countries, on the basis of one member per country, with a Central Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland, that coordinates the system.

### ISO 14001 Registration

Registration Accreditation Board (RAB) accredits registrars in the U.S. These registrars agree to codes of conduct and operate as commercial businesses. RAB certifies EMS auditors who have taken RAB Accredited Courses and have the required experience. Auditors working for Registrars audit EMS' and recommend registration to ISO 14001.

If you wish to pursue ISO 14001 registration, hire a registrar that understands the business and that you can work with. The auditor will review the EMS documentation and make two site visits to audit the EMS. If the auditor is satisfied with the conformance, they will recommend registration and a certificate will be issued by registrar. Every 6 or 12 months after that, the registrar will visit to re-audit the EMS or parts of it and once every three years the entire EMS must be audited.

This is the final tier in the Environmental MAPS program. Remember that environmental management systems are specialized programs designed to minimize the facility's environmental "footprint." Each facility is encouraged to continue to work toward continuous improvement, identifying alternatives, incorporating effective corrective action measures and managing all aspects of the facility's environmental impact.