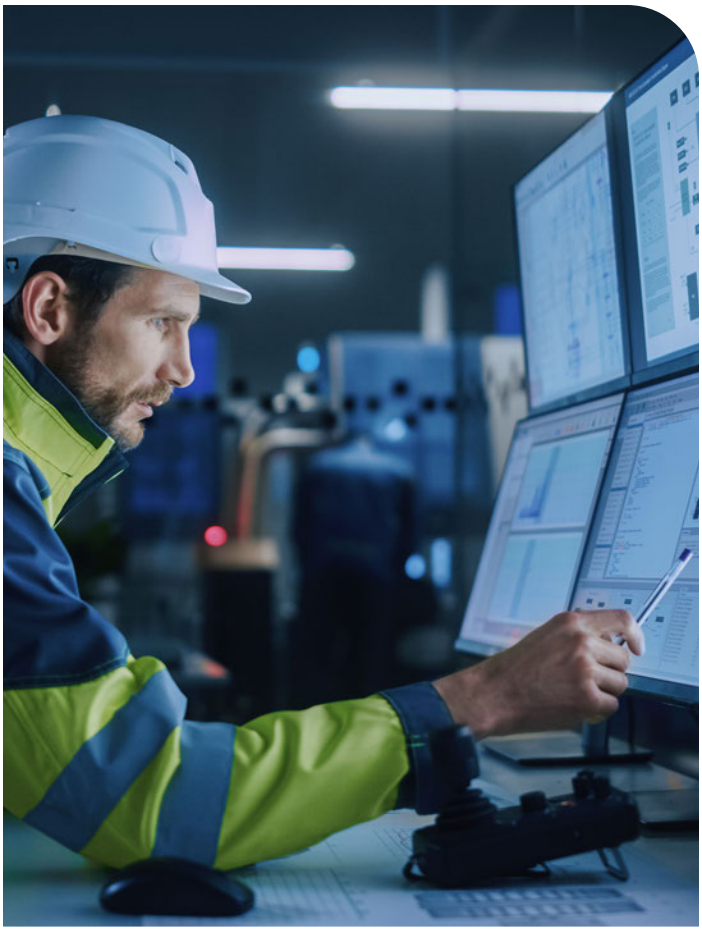
RESPONSIBLE CARE®
Driving Safety & Sustainability

Understanding a Management System Approach

A **management system** is a set of policies, processes and procedures used by an organization to help fulfill goals, complete required tasks, and drive continual improvement. Management systems exist for a multitude of disciplines, including finance, quality control, occupational safety, information systems, security, environmental protection, and more. Institutions such as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) develop consensus-based management systems such as ISO 14001 for environmental systems, which are widely adopted by business, government, and other institutions. In some cases, business groups, like the American Chemistry Council (ACC), have created management system models that focus on a specific industry or activity and build on existing ISO frameworks.

One such example is the Responsible Care Management System (RCMS) a key element of ACC's Responsible Care initiative, which establishes requirements across a range of disciplines, including:

- Environmental Health and Protection
- Occupational Safety
- Security
- Transportation Safety
- Product Safety and Stewardship
- Stakeholder Engagement



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Using a Plan-Do-Check-Act approach, RCMS is designed as a forward-looking, self-correcting system to achieve the organization's goals. As with other management system models, RCMS includes requirements for the organization to meet its regulatory compliance obligations but goes beyond to help organizations identify emerging issues and identify risks and opportunities across operations.

For over 20 years, **ACC members and Responsible Care Partners have been required to independently verify conformance to the Responsible Care Management System**. One means of demonstrating conformance is to undergo a **management systems audit**.

The goal of the audit is to determine the effectiveness of the management system and, if necessary, where it can improve. ACC companies must conduct these audits at their headquarters and a sample group of their facilities on a regular basis.