3. RISKS

Recurring question: Is the following statement more of a threat or an opportunity?

RISK 01 The most important thing is that the company's strategy was established in the past
Threat   § 4.1   ★★★
Every three years on average, it's advisable to verify the strategy's adequacy with the company's context and the expectations and needs of stakeholders. It's a threat because the date when the strategy was developed isn't specified

RISK 02 The company's context is an element that can be considered (even if the boss forgot to mention it)
Threat   § 4.1   ☆☆
This is a requirement of the standard and is unavoidable. It's one of the first tasks to carry out since the validation of the company's strategy depends on it

RISK 03 Trying to anticipate the evolution of customer expectations is a waste of time (if the boss says so)
Threat   § 4.2   ★
Since the company's goal is to sustainably satisfy its customers, knowing the evolution of expectations is a key success factor for the future

4. MCT (multiple choice test)

MCT 01 Only one of the following statements is correct. Can you name which one?
1. A product can be certified ISO 14001
2. A service can be certified ISO 14001
3. The management system of an organization can be certified ISO 14001
4. Any organization with more than 100 people shall be ISO 14001 certified
§ 0.1 ⭐

A product is certified from a technical point of view according to a reference system, such as CE 023 for a medical device, for example. Only the management system of an organization can be certified ISO 14001. Certification is voluntary for any organization, whatever the size

MCT 02 A systematic approach to environmental management allows us to contribute to sustainable development by (even if the boss has no opinion):
1. Protecting the environment
2. Helping to meet compliance obligations
3. Communicating environmental information to stakeholders
4. Increasing the company's legal requirements
§ 0.2 ⭐⭐⭐

ISO 14001, like other international standards, is not intended to increase or modify a company's legal requirements

MCT 03 In the Deming cycle, the A stands for:
1. Analyze data
2. Act
3. Improve
4. Adapt
§ 0.4 ⭐

In the DEMING cycle, the data analysis is in the C (Check)

5. PRACTICES

Recurring question: Is the following statement more a good or a bad practice?

PRACTICE 01 The diagnosis of the organization context includes the main issues, including environmental conditions (even if the boss doesn't know about it)
Good practice   § 4.1   ★

To understand the context of the organization, top management must prioritize internal and external issues and environmental conditions

PRACTICE 02 Fulfilment of its compliance obligations is a preventive measure, not a constraint
Good practice   § 4.2   ☆☆

Fulfilling its compliance obligations helps improve environmental performance and contributes to sustainable development

PRACTICE 03 The scope of the organization's EMS is relevant and available on request (even if the boss doesn't know it)
Good practice   § 4.3   ★

The scope of the environmental management system is included in the certificate of conformity to ISO 14001 issued by the certification body. The certificate is available on the website

5. CASES

CASE 01 CONTEXT

Situation: external and internal issues influence the strategic direction and the overall performance of the organization

Challenge: how can we understand the influence of external and internal issues?

Solution 1: regularly monitor and review issues
Solution 2: determine the positive or negative influence of each issue
Solution 3: use SWOT and PEST tools

§ 4.1 ★★★

All these activities are very useful for analyzing the context

CASE 02 STAKEHOLDERS

Situation: many stakeholders are concerned by our EMS

Challenge: how do we identify our EMS stakeholders?

Solution 1: identify our compliance obligations concerning stakeholders
Solution 2: draw up a list of stakeholders who may be affected by our EMS
Solution 3: draw up a list of stakeholders who can be influenced by our EMS

§ 4.2 ★

On the contrary, certain stakeholder requirements can be adopted and then become compliance obligations of our EMS

Establishing the list of parties concerned and influenced by our EMS is an essential activity in setting up our EMS

CASE 03 SCOPE OF THE EMS

Situation: we need to maintain the scope of the EMS in the form of documented information (procedure)

Challenge: what must we do to determine the scope of the EMS?

Solution 1: take into account the corporate context and culture
Solution 2: include all sites, processes, products and services in the EMS
Solution 3: include process mapping and process drivers

§ 4.3 ★

The activities of the first two solutions are useful for determining the scope of the EMS

ISO 14001 does not require process mapping and process owners to be included in the EMS scope