

## WHAT IS RIOS™?

RIOS™:2016 is the recycling industry's management system. Combining Quality, Environmental, and Health and Safety, RIOS™ (the Recycling Industry Operating Standard™) was designed for recyclers, by recyclers as an effective way to ensure compliance, improve health and safety across the facility, strengthen the quality of material being produced, and enhance environmental responsibility across all operations.

Originally released in 2006, the concept behind RIOS™ was to create a do-it-yourself alternative to the manufacturing-centric ISO standards. Rather than developing three separate management systems within the facility (ISO 9001, ISO 14001, and OHSAS 18001), RIOS™ integrated these three core areas into one streamlined system based on the "Plan-Do-Check-Act" model. By integrating these areas, not only did RIOS™ decrease the burden on the facility, it ensured that all controls were actively addressing all three key areas.

Building on the success of RIOS™:2006, and integrating lessons learned, RIOS™ released the 2016 revision. This revision is not only stronger, and rooted deeper in contemporary management system practices, but it is even more specific to the needs of recyclers. With the new and improved RIOS™ Implementation Guide, and the training provided by RIOS™ as part of the membership, even the smallest of facilities can successfully implement RIOS™, seeing massive tangible benefits internally, while also strengthening their relationship with employees, customers, suppliers, and the community.

**FACILITIES FROM  
ACROSS THE INDUSTRY  
FIND RETURN ON  
INVESTMENT BY  
ACHIEVING RIOS™  
CERTIFICATION**

## BENEFITS OF RIOS™

Implementing a RIOS™ management system at a recycling facility is an investment. In a short time, a properly implemented management system will save the facility money, improve the health and safety record, and create better partnerships with stakeholders across the board.

**Health and Safety:** As the industry continues to focus more on health and safety, it is paramount that each facility develops a strong safety culture that is coupled with the understanding of risks, corresponding guidelines, and proper training. These are all systemized in the tools and templates provided in the RIOS™ Implementation Guide. Additionally, the codified processes and procedures create an auditable and reviewable set of instructions that will provide the employee with a how-to reference guide, and management with a mechanism to ensure that work is regularly being done in an approved safe manner.

**Quality:** Partnerships are the key to success in any business. Whether dealing with an upstream supplier or a downstream customer, it is paramount that these partners know exactly what they can send to your facility, what they are buying from your facility, and how you will manage all aspects of that relationship. With a

quality management in place, your partners will know that they will get a consistent experience every time they interact with your facility. Gone will be the day of returned products, chargebacks, and non-conforming material. Most importantly your certified quality management system will be an asset that can be used to win business over competitors. Specific customer requirements will not be a burden, and they will in fact, fit nicely into your system.

**Environment:** The focus on environmental responsibility has never been stronger. Between ever changing regulations and the watchful eye of environmentalist groups, nothing can ruin a recycling business quicker than being labeled as an irresponsible steward of the environment. Through the RIOS™ management system, facilities go through a comprehensive evaluation of their environmental impacts, and then seek ways to lower their footprint over time. In doing so, facilities have saved money, received recognition from their community for their dedication, and reduced or eliminated fines from federal and state regulators.

**Compliance:** RIOS™ is designed to ensure that facilities understand and meet the requirements of the laws and regulations that impact their facility. A properly

implemented management system will include triggers for reviewing any changes to applicable rules, and ensuring that the facility is still in compliance. RIOS™ certified facilities have often used their management system to show regulatory inspectors what programs are in place to ensure compliance, avoiding a full inspection of the facility.

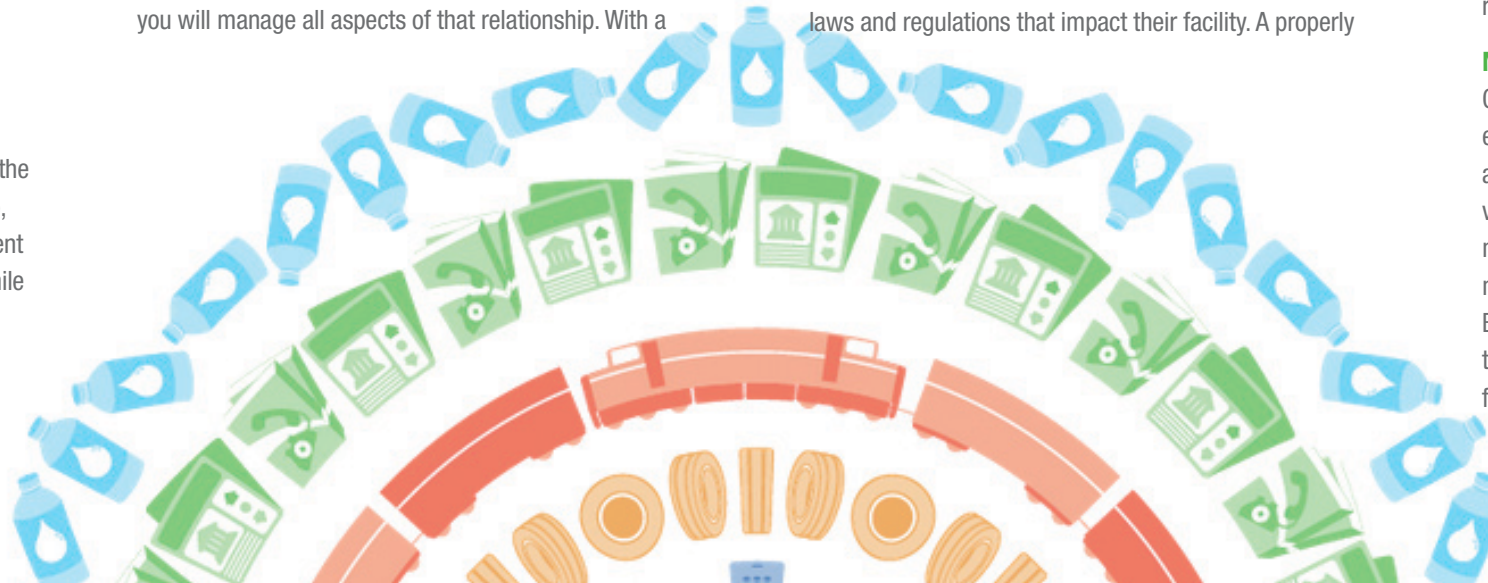
## RIOS™ Certification

### How To Get Certified

The RIOS™:2016 standard is an ANAB-Accredited standard that is third-party audited. Generally accepted as the best way to ensure impartiality in the audit process, third-party certification bodies provide audit services to ensure compliance with the standard. During the initial certification process, the auditor will first review documentation to ensure that facilities are meeting all of the documentation requirements of the standard. Upon successful completion of the stage 1 audit, the auditor will review the operations of the facility to ensure that management and employees are following procedures, meeting training requirements, and complying with requisite laws and regulations.

### Marketing Certification

Certification is a tool that can be used to strengthen existing partnerships or win new business. Mills, foundries, and export partners face increasing scrutiny to use vendors that are operating in a safe and sustainable manner, but more importantly, they rely on conforming material and timely delivery to meet internal deadlines. By verifying the strength of the facility's system, the sales teams can provide assurances that other competitor facilities are not able to provide.



## IMPLEMENTATION OF RIOS™

RIOS™ is designed as a do-it-yourself management system. Along with the revised version of the standard, RIOS™ created a new RIOS™ Implementation Guide (RIG), which is a collection of instructions, tools, and templates that allows anyone to introduce a management system within a recycling facility regardless of their management system experience. The RIG walks through each of the requirements identifying tricks-of-the-trade, and providing the necessary documentation templates to easily being in compliance with each of the requirements.

In addition to the RIG, RIOS™ membership includes monthly webinars that assist in implementation, identify trends in the industry, or highlight best practices around health and safety, environmental sustainability, or quality assurance. Finally, RIOS™ staff maintain a database of experienced management system experts with RIOS™ experience that can provide facilities with advice and assistance on an as-needed basis.

### RIOS™ and R2

For recyclers and refurbishers of electronics, R2 certification has become a very important part of being competitive in the marketplace. Provision 1 of R2 requires a certified EHS management system, a requirement that RIOS™ meets. Because of its recycling-specific approach, and the addition of quality in management system (which also meets the Provision 6 quality requirement), RIOS™ is the best option for complying with this requirement. Additionally, due to the cost of implementing and auditing multiple standards, RIOS™ is, in most cases, the cheapest option.

For more information about R2/RIOS™ certification contact us at [info@rioscertification.org](mailto:info@rioscertification.org)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### How Do We get Started with RIOS™?

To get started with RIOS™, visit [www.rioscertification.org](http://www.rioscertification.org) and complete the application form. For more information, you can also email [info@rioscertification.org](mailto:info@rioscertification.org).

### How much does it cost?

RIOS™ Membership, which includes a licensed copy of the standard, access to the RIOS™ Implementation Guide, and all of the training webinars is \$2500, and members of ISRI, CARI or other select associations can receive a 50% discount. There are also significant discounts for companies that add multiple facilities.

### Should I use a consultant?

RIOS™ is designed to be a do-it-yourself system. If, however you are seeking to become certified on a specific timeline, or have severe limitations on staff time to dedicate to implementing the management system, a consultant may be an appropriate solution.

### How long does it take to implement a RIOS™ management system?

Complete implementation of RIOS™ takes an average of 6 months to one year. The timeline of implementation has a direct correlation to the amount of time and resources that is dedicated to implementing the system.

For more information or to ask other questions related to RIOS™ implementation, please visit [www.rioscertification.org](http://www.rioscertification.org) or email [info@rioscertification.org](mailto:info@rioscertification.org).

*"We were so excited when we received our RIOS™ certification! Having our RIOS™ management system in place has improved our efforts in ensuring the quality of products shipped to our customers. We have always been concerned about the environment and RIOS™ gives us more tools to achieve our goal of being good stewards to our environment. Finally, our goal, our #1 goal is to make sure our employees work safely, then go home to their families every day. The RIOS™ organized systematic approach towards safety actually aids in streamlining our efforts. I highly recommend RIOS™ certification."*

Tamara Deiro, Director of Safety,  
SA Recycling

*"RIOS™ has been essential in the start-up and running of the CyclePoint network of non-profit recyclers. Each of the 53+ members is required to obtain RIOS™ certification to be able to process materials for and with CyclePoint. The process of developing and maintaining a valid QEH&S in the pursuit of bettering your business is only part of the benefit, recognizing the need of process for profit, succession planning and innovation are some of the upper level pieces of gold! We have the unique benefit of providing opportunities for people with disabilities and RIOS™ helps us ensure we are doing everything we can to provide safe and real work experience for the people we serve."*

Steven Elmore, CyclePoint Senior Program Manager  
SourceAmerica

*"At HiTech Assets, we serve very demanding clients, so quality is a necessary part of our culture. The RIOS™ management system has enabled us to build quality assurance practices into every process – every day. And the integrated approach to worker safety and environmental impacts helps us avoid duplication and wasted effort across systems. The single, completely integrated RIOS™ system has helped us win and retain business by modeling best-practices for our clients and employees. And the continuous improvement methodology has shown us ways to reduce cost. More business + reduced costs + safe workers & environment = no regrets!"*

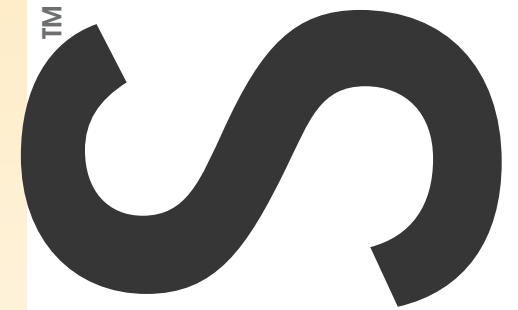
Rike Sandlin, Senior Vice President  
& COO, HiTech Assets, Inc.

*"At Miller Scrap, our mission is to provide quality customer service, competitive pricing, and positive recycling solutions to our suppliers and customers. In addition, our team is committed to protecting the environment, health and safety management, and continued quality improvement. Becoming RIOS™ certified has helped provide our team with the framework needed to ensure the continued long-term sustainability of our business and its mission."*

Jeremy Miller, CFO and 4th generation recycler,  
Wm. Miller Scrap Iron & Metal Co.



[www.rioscertification.org](http://www.rioscertification.org) | (202) 662-8553



CERTIFIED RECYCLER

RECYCLING INDUSTRY  
OPERATING STANDARD

