Press release

ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 revisions now available

Two key management system standards have been revised. German versions will be published in November 2015

Berlin, 2015-10-01. ISO, the International Organization for Standardization, has published its revision of ISO 9001, one of most well-known and widely used standards in the world. The 2015 revision is the result of three-years' work by experts and observers from 95 countries. The German version will be published – as a bilingual German/English edition - as DIN EN ISO 9001:2015-11 in November of this year.

Another important management standard, ISO 14001 "Environmental management systems" has also been revised and published. As with ISO 9001, the German version (also as a German/English bilingual edition) of ISO 14001 will be published as DIN EN ISO 14001:2015-11 in November of this year. Experts from 63 countries were involved in its revision.
Both standards – including the bilingual editions coming out in November – are available from Beuth Verlag at www.beuth.eu.

ISO 9001 "Quality management systems – Requirements" was last revised 7 years ago in 2008. Only one year later, the number of companies certified to ISO 9001 rose to over one million, and by 2012 there were more than 1.1 million ISO 9001 certificates. An ISO 9001 quality management system helps organizations to continually provide products and services that meet customer needs and comply with all legal provisions. The standard also describes the process of continual improvement.

Although the previous edition came out in 2008, the changes had been largely editorial in nature. This means that the last major revision took place over 15 years ago, in 2000. But the business world has changed radically since then: Technology and today's global economy have changed how companies work, supply chains are increasingly complex and available

information has grown exponentially. And so ISO 9001 has been brought up-to-date with these developments.

Some of the changes in the 2015 edition include a greater emphasis on leadership and a suitability for growing sectors such as the services industry. One of the major changes is a new focus on risk management - the standard now requires that the organization identify the risks and opportunities that can potentially impact the operation and performance of its quality system. This risk-based approach is found throughout the standard.

Nevertheless, it does not require the setting up of a formal risk management system.
All those currently certified to ISO 9001:2008 have three years to transition to the new version. This means that current certificates do not lose their validity until September 2018.

ISO 14001 "Environmental management systems – Requirements with guidance for use" was last revised in 2004, with additional corrections having been made in 2009. Helping companies and organizations improve their environmental, sustainability and operational performance, the standard sets out requirements for an environmental management system. There are more than 300,000 certificates to ISO 14001 throughout the world.

One key change is the call for a greater importance of environmental management within the organization's strategic planning processes. The focus should go beyond the organization itself to include stakeholders, employees, NGOs and other standards setters.

Other changes in the 2015 edition include a greater focus on leadership, and proactive initiatives to protect the environment from harm, such as sustainable resource use. The revision also calls for a more effective communications strategy and lifecycle thinking when considering environmental aspects.

A major change in both the ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 revisions is their restructuring according to the "high level structure (HLS)" which is being used for all international management system standards, including uniform texts and terminology. This will make it easier to use several QMS standards in parallel.

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