

Quality management systems — Requirements

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies requirements for a quality management system when an organization:

- a) needs to demonstrate its ability to consistently provide products and services that meet customer and applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, and
- b) aims to enhance customer satisfaction through the effective application of the system, including processes for improvement of the system and the assurance of conformity to customer and applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.

All the requirements of this International Standard are generic and are intended to be applicable to any organization, regardless of its type or size, or the products and services it provides.

NOTE 1 In this International Standard, the terms “product” or “service” only apply to products and services intended for, or required by, a customer.

NOTE 2 Statutory and regulatory requirements can be expressed as legal requirements.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 9000:2015, *Quality management systems — Fundamentals and vocabulary*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 9000:2015 apply.

4 Context of the organization

4.1 Understanding the organization and its context

The organization shall determine external and internal issues that are relevant to its purpose and its strategic direction and that affect its ability to achieve the intended result(s) of its quality management system.

The organization shall monitor and review information about these external and internal issues.

NOTE 1 Issues can include positive and negative factors or conditions for consideration.

NOTE 2 Understanding the external context can be facilitated by considering issues arising from legal, technological, competitive, market, cultural, social and economic environments, whether international, national, regional or local.

NOTE 3 Understanding the internal context can be facilitated by considering issues related to values, culture, knowledge and performance of the organization.

4.2 Understanding the needs and expectations of interested parties

Due to their effect or potential effect on the organization's ability to consistently provide products and services that meet customer and applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, the organization shall determine:

- a) the interested parties that are relevant to the quality management system;
- b) the requirements of these interested parties that are relevant to the quality management system.

The organization shall monitor and review information about these interested parties and their relevant requirements.

4.3 Determining the scope of the quality management system

The organization shall determine the boundaries and applicability of the quality management system to establish its scope.

When determining this scope, the organization shall consider:

- a) the external and internal issues referred to in 4.1;
- b) the requirements of relevant interested parties referred to in 4.2;
- c) the products and services of the organization.

The organization shall apply all the requirements of this International Standard if they are applicable within the determined scope of its quality management system.

The scope of the organization's quality management system shall be available and be maintained as documented information. The scope shall state the types of products and services covered, and provide justification for any requirement of this International Standard that the organization determines is not applicable to the scope of its quality management system.

Conformity to this International Standard may only be claimed if the requirements determined as not being applicable do not affect the organization's ability or responsibility to ensure the conformity of its products and services and the enhancement of customer satisfaction.

4.4 Quality management system and its processes

4.4.1 The organization shall establish, implement, maintain and continually improve a quality management system, including the processes needed and their interactions, in accordance with the requirements of this International Standard.

The organization shall determine the processes needed for the quality management system and their application throughout the organization, and shall:

- a) determine the inputs required and the outputs expected from these processes;
- b) determine the sequence and interaction of these processes;
- c) determine and apply the criteria and methods (including monitoring, measurements and related performance indicators) needed to ensure the effective operation and control of these processes;
- d) determine the resources needed for these processes and ensure their availability;
- e) assign the responsibilities and authorities for these processes;
- f) address the risks and opportunities as determined in accordance with the requirements of 6.1;
- g) evaluate these processes and implement any changes needed to ensure that these processes achieve their intended results;

- h) improve the processes and the quality management system.

4.4.2 To the extent necessary, the organization shall:

- a) maintain documented information to support the operation of its processes;
- b) retain documented information to have confidence that the processes are being carried out as planned.

5 Leadership

5.1 Leadership and commitment

5.1.1 General

Top management shall demonstrate leadership and commitment with respect to the quality management system by:

- a) taking accountability for the effectiveness of the quality management system;
- b) ensuring that the quality policy and quality objectives are established for the quality management system and are compatible with the context and strategic direction of the organization;
- c) ensuring the integration of the quality management system requirements into the organization's business processes;
- d) promoting the use of the process approach and risk-based thinking;
- e) ensuring that the resources needed for the quality management system are available;
- f) communicating the importance of effective quality management and of conforming to the quality management system requirements;
- g) ensuring that the quality management system achieves its intended results;
- h) engaging, directing and supporting persons to contribute to the effectiveness of the quality management system;
- i) promoting improvement;
- j) supporting other relevant management roles to demonstrate their leadership as it applies to their areas of responsibility.

NOTE Reference to "business" in this International Standard can be interpreted broadly to mean those activities that are core to the purposes of the organization's existence, whether the organization is public, private, for profit or not for profit.

5.1.2 Customer focus

Top management shall demonstrate leadership and commitment with respect to customer focus by ensuring that:

- a) customer and applicable statutory and regulatory requirements are determined, understood and consistently met;
- b) the risks and opportunities that can affect conformity of products and services and the ability to enhance customer satisfaction are determined and addressed;
- c) the focus on enhancing customer satisfaction is maintained.

5.2 Policy

5.2.1 Establishing the quality policy

Top management shall establish, implement and maintain a quality policy that:

- a) is appropriate to the purpose and context of the organization and supports its strategic direction;
- b) provides a framework for setting quality objectives;
- c) includes a commitment to satisfy applicable requirements;
- d) includes a commitment to continual improvement of the quality management system.

5.2.2 Communicating the quality policy

The quality policy shall:

- a) be available and be maintained as documented information;
- b) be communicated, understood and applied within the organization;
- c) be available to relevant interested parties, as appropriate.

5.3 Organizational roles, responsibilities and authorities

Top management shall ensure that the responsibilities and authorities for relevant roles are assigned, communicated and understood within the organization.

Top management shall assign the responsibility and authority for:

- a) ensuring that the quality management system conforms to the requirements of this International Standard;
- b) ensuring that the processes are delivering their intended outputs;
- c) reporting on the performance of the quality management system and on opportunities for improvement (see 10.1), in particular to top management;
- d) ensuring the promotion of customer focus throughout the organization;
- e) ensuring that the integrity of the quality management system is maintained when changes to the quality management system are planned and implemented.

6 Planning

6.1 Actions to address risks and opportunities

6.1.1 When planning for the quality management system, the organization shall consider the issues referred to in 4.1 and the requirements referred to in 4.2 and determine the risks and opportunities that need to be addressed to:

- a) give assurance that the quality management system can achieve its intended result(s);
- b) enhance desirable effects;
- c) prevent, or reduce, undesired effects;
- d) achieve improvement.

6.1.2 The organization shall plan:

- a) actions to address these risks and opportunities;
- b) how to:
 - 1) integrate and implement the actions into its quality management system processes (see 4.4);
 - 2) evaluate the effectiveness of these actions.

Actions taken to address risks and opportunities shall be proportionate to the potential impact on the conformity of products and services.

NOTE 1 Options to address risks can include avoiding risk, taking risk in order to pursue an opportunity, eliminating the risk source, changing the likelihood or consequences, sharing the risk, or retaining risk by informed decision.

NOTE 2 Opportunities can lead to the adoption of new practices, launching new products, opening new markets, addressing new customers, building partnerships, using new technology and other desirable and viable possibilities to address the organization's or its customers' needs.

6.2 Quality objectives and planning to achieve them

6.2.1 The organization shall establish quality objectives at relevant functions, levels and processes needed for the quality management system.

The quality objectives shall:

- a) be consistent with the quality policy;
- b) be measurable;
- c) take into account applicable requirements;
- d) be relevant to conformity of products and services and to enhancement of customer satisfaction;
- e) be monitored;
- f) be communicated;
- g) be updated as appropriate.

The organization shall maintain documented information on the quality objectives.

6.2.2 When planning how to achieve its quality objectives, the organization shall determine:

- a) what will be done;
- b) what resources will be required;
- c) who will be responsible;
- d) when it will be completed;
- e) how the results will be evaluated.

6.3 Planning of changes

When the organization determines the need for changes to the quality management system, the changes shall be carried out in a planned manner (see 4.4).

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The organization shall consider:

- a) the purpose of the changes and their potential consequences;
- b) the integrity of the quality management system;
- c) the availability of resources;
- d) the allocation or reallocation of responsibilities and authorities.

7 Support

7.1 Resources

7.1.1 General

The organization shall determine and provide the resources needed for the establishment, implementation, maintenance and continual improvement of the quality management system.

The organization shall consider:

- a) the capabilities of, and constraints on, existing internal resources;
- b) what needs to be obtained from external providers.

7.1.2 People

The organization shall determine and provide the persons necessary for the effective implementation of its quality management system and for the operation and control of its processes.

7.1.3 Infrastructure

The organization shall determine, provide and maintain the infrastructure necessary for the operation of its processes and to achieve conformity of products and services.

NOTE Infrastructure can include:

- a) buildings and associated utilities;
- b) equipment, including hardware and software;
- c) transportation resources;
- d) information and communication technology.

7.1.4 Environment for the operation of processes

The organization shall determine, provide and maintain the environment necessary for the operation of its processes and to achieve conformity of products and services.

NOTE A suitable environment can be a combination of human and physical factors, such as:

- a) social (e.g. non-discriminatory, calm, non-confrontational);
- b) psychological (e.g. stress-reducing, burnout prevention, emotionally protective);
- c) physical (e.g. temperature, heat, humidity, light, airflow, hygiene, noise).

These factors can differ substantially depending on the products and services provided.