

Risk based internal audits – what you need to know about 2015

2015 is a big year for companies maintaining quality and environmental management systems compliant to the ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 international standards. It is well known that the popular ISO 9001:2008 quality management standard will likely be superseded in September 2015 affecting almost a million organisations worldwide. What is less well known is that the ISO Technical Committee 207 has been working hard on the ISO 14001 environmental management standard which is due for release in May 2015. Both standards have major changes during this cycle which have implications for Managers with responsibility for quality and environmental management as they begin work to meet the new requirements. Although these standards are still in draft and have some time to go in the process before they are finally released many of the changes are clear. So what are some of these changes?

It seems likely that the eight familiar quality management principles will be reduced to seven with the removal of a 'systems approach to management'. Subject to final agreement changes to the remaining principles are; 'involvement of people' changes to 'engagement of people', 'continual improvement' becomes just 'improvement', 'factual approach to decision making' becomes 'evidence-based decision making' and 'mutually beneficial supplier relationship' becomes 'relationship management'. Many of these changes show some signs that the ISO 9001 principles are moving closer to the business excellence¹ 'values'.

Perhaps one of the most significant changes is the continuing convergence of risk, quality, environment, and other standards that we have seen going on now for several revision cycles. Both ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 will use a new high-level structure and layout that will become complete during 2016 when ISO releases a new ISO 45001 occupational health and safety standard thereby superseding OSHAS 18001. This 'trilogy' of health and safety, quality, and environmental management within an 'umbrella' of risk management (ISO 31000) is the ISO view of taking an integrated approach to managing any organisation. In the QHSE Manager workshop we cover how to apply an integrated management system approach incorporating quality, health and safety and environment within a risk based framework. This is consistent with the new high level structure that we will see in the revisions of the ISO standards as from next year.

One of the many changes where risk is applied in the ISO 9001 standard is in internal audits. The internal audit programme will now require consideration of the risks to the organisation and this includes the planning and scheduling of internal audits. This change explicitly requires a risk based approach and goes beyond the 'status and importance of the processes' referred to in the current revision. The QHSE Manager workshop includes how to take a risk based approach to the scheduling of internal audits.

This QHSE Workshop is designed for managers who are new to quality, health and safety and environmental management, and experienced managers who are looking for new skills. It is also valuable for those with responsibility for managing their own audit programme who have already completed the Internal Auditor course. You can begin making changes to your management system that you need to make as these new ISO standard revisions become released from May next year.



Note that attendees at the 2-day Internal Audit course may also attend the QHSE Manager workshop immediately following.

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ⁱ See http://www.pyxis.co.nz/cms/page.php?view=what_is_business_excellence