



The QUARTET

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CLIMATE CHANGE AND ISO

The International Organisation for Standardization (ISO) has taken a significant step towards addressing the growing concerns over climate change by adding climate change considerations into organisational management systems. **On February 22, 2024, an amendment was issued that impacted thirty-one existing management system standards.** This development highlights the urgent need for businesses worldwide to prioritise environmental sustainability and resilience in their operations.

The standards affected by this amendment include ISO 9001 (Quality Management Systems), ISO 14001 (Environmental Management Systems), ISO 27001 (Information Security Management Systems), and ISO 45001 (Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems). These are widely recognised standards that guide organisations towards operational excellence and compliance.

The amendment seeks to ensure that climate change risks and opportunities are systematically incorporated into organisational management systems. This integration helps businesses manage their environmental impacts, enhance resilience, and seize opportunities towards sustainability.

Organisations certified under ISO standards need to review and update their management systems to integrate climate change considerations. This involves revisiting policies, procedures, risk assessments, and performance indicators to align with new requirements.

Key aspects that organisations may need to address include:


- **Climate Risk Assessment:** Conduct thorough assessments to identify and evaluate climate-related risks and opportunities pertinent to the organisation's operations, supply chain, and stakeholders.
- **Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies:** Developing and implementing strategies to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to climate impacts, and enhance resilience across the value chain.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Engaging with stakeholders, including customers, suppliers, employees, and communities, to foster collaboration, transparency, and shared responsibility towards climate action.
- **Monitoring and Reporting:** Establishing robust monitoring and reporting mechanisms to track progress towards climate-related goals, comply with regulatory requirements, and communicate performance effectively.
- **Continuous Improvement:** Embracing a culture of continuous improvement to drive innovation, optimise resource efficiency, and enhance the organisation's overall environmental performance.


The amendment underscores the pivotal role of ISO standards in **driving sustainable development** and **fostering resilience** in the face of climate change. By integrating climate considerations into management systems, organisations can not only mitigate risks but also unlock new opportunities for growth, innovation, and competitive advantage in a rapidly evolving global landscape.

In summary, the recent amendment to ISO standards calls for businesses to embrace sustainability as a core principle guiding their operations.

By leveraging ISO standards, businesses can navigate uncertainties, build resilience, and contribute to a more sustainable future.

Quality and Reliability Through Expertise and Teamwork

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