

Inclusion of Climate Change considerations within MS standards

IAF and ISO have published a joint communiqué, highlighting the changes being made to a number of Management Systems Standards (e.g. ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 45001, ISO 22000, ISO 27001, ISO 50001, etc.), in the form of additional text highlighting the importance of Climate Change as a consideration within the Organizational Context for the Management System concerned.

As the joint communiqué explains, the changes have been instigated in response to the London Declaration on Climate Action, and states:

“The overall intent of the requirements for Clauses 4.1 and 4.2 remain unchanged; these clauses already include the need for the organization to consider all internal and external issues that can impact the effectiveness of their Management System; these new inclusions are assuring that Climate Change is considered within the Management System and that it is an external factor that is important enough for our community to require organizations to consider it now.”

Expectations for the certification process

Certified organizations should already be determining all internal and external issues that are relevant to the Management System’s purpose, its strategic direction and that affect its ability to achieve the intended result(s). Over time these issues are likely to change for an organization and this includes Climate Change which has been clarified by the amendment in Clause 4.1 and 4.2.

The Certification Bodies shall audit these Clauses to ensure that all internal and external issues, which include Climate Change, have been determined by their clients as relevant or not and, if so, considered in the development and effectiveness of the Management System(s).

Timing

The changes to the standards were published on 22nd February 2024. Issues related to Climate Change affecting the context of an organization’s Management System(s) should already be considered by the organization.

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