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*Seasons Greetings from all at QM&T*



**ISO9001:2008 Standard**

The latest version of the Quality Management System (QMS) standard ISO9001 was published on 14<sup>th</sup> November. This is the fourth edition of the standard that was first published in 1987 and which has become the global benchmark for providing assurance about the ability to satisfy quality requirements and to enhance customer satisfaction.

According to the International Standards Organisation, The key focuses of the ISO 9001:2008 amendment were to enhance the clarity of ISO 9001:2000 and to enhance its compatibility with ISO 14001:2004.

In developing the new standard, the following decision making principles were applied:

- No changes with high impact would be incorporated into the standard;
- Changes with medium impact would only be incorporated when they provided a correspondingly medium or high benefit to users of the standard;
- Even where a change was low impact, it had to be justified by the benefits it delivered to users, before being incorporated.

The changes incorporated in this ISO 9001:2008 edition were classified in terms of impact into the following categories:

- No changes or minimum changes on user documents, including records
- No changes or minimum changes to existing processes of the organization
- No additional training required or minimal training required

- No effects on current certifications

The benefits identified for the ISO 9001:2008 edition fall into the following categories:

- Provide clarity
- Increase compatibility with ISO 14001.
- Maintain consistency with ISO 9000 family of standards.
- Improve translatability

According to ISO Secretary-General Alan Bryden, “The revised ISO9001 standard results from a structured process giving weight to the needs of users and to the likely impacts and benefits of the revisions. ISO9001:2001 is therefore the outcome of a rigorous examination confirming its fitness for use as the international benchmark for quality management.

The changes in the new standard include:

- Risk and business environment are mentioned for the first time in the introduction to the standard.
- The management representative must be part of the organisation’s management. This could have implications for consultants who undertake this role.

There are other changes and a full table of them is included in the ISO9001:2008 standard.

Further information is available from [www.iso.ch](http://www.iso.ch) and your own certification body.



### Survey Results

The 2007 ISO Survey shows that ISO management system standards are implemented in 175 countries.

The most popular standard was ISO9001, with nearly 1 million certificates and this accounted for 32% of all certificates issued.

ISO14001 was the next most popular standard with around 155,000 certificates issued. Although still some way behind ISO9001, this is a 21% increase over 2006.

Other standards such as ISO/TS 16949: 2002 (quality management for automotive suppliers), ISO 13485: 2003 (quality management for medical devices) and ISO/IEC 27001:2005 (information security management) are not as numerous but continue to show increases.

The survey also shows the development of the global economy, with newly emerging economies such as China, India, Brazil and the Russian Federation appearing among the leading countries for totals of certificates issued or growth during 2007. Other countries showing intensive certification activity include Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Poland, Romania, Thailand and Turkey. The principle findings of the survey are available on [www.iso.ch](http://www.iso.ch)



### REACH

As part of REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) Legislation in the UK, businesses must register their use of chemicals. The pre-registration period ended on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2008. Pre-registering the chemical substances they manufacture or import allowed businesses to take advantage of the phased registration deadlines in REACH, which could mean not having to register in full until 2018. If a company has failed to pre-register, then immediate registration is required after 1 December 2008 if the company wants to legally continue to manufacture or import chemicals.

The aim of REACH is to improve the protection of human health and the environment through better and earlier identification of the intrinsic properties of chemicals. It requires manufacturers and importers of all chemicals on the EU market in quantities of one tonne per year or more to be registered and to provide a set of information about the substance.

Comprehensive information of REACH is available on the REACH UK Competent Authority website at [www.hse.gov.uk/reach](http://www.hse.gov.uk/reach)



### ISO Standard for Taste and Sme II?

How can you describe taste, smell or feel consistently? A new ISO standard, *ISO 5492:2008, Sensory analysis – Vocabulary* lists terms and definitions relating to sensory analysis, thus providing global consistency in a field which often relies of subjective experiences and descriptions.

ISO 5492 covers:

- General terminology
- Terminology relating to senses
- Terminology relating to organoleptic attributes
- Terminology relating to methods

The standard applies to all industries concerned with the evaluation of products by the sense organs, including sensory research providers, the food and beverage industry, the cosmetic industry, the textile industry, the fragrances industry, the automotive industry and the tobacco industry among others.

Mrs Huguette Nicod, Chair of the technical subcommittee said, “With ISO 5492 test subjects will know when to use the terms such as *chewiness* or *unami* in product evaluations, as well as be able to describe all the characteristics of products such as aromas, colours and textures.”

For further information please visit [www.iso.ch](http://www.iso.ch)



## Caring for your CDs and DVDs

A new ISO standard has been published that gives the general principles and recommendations for the care and handling of digital optical discs during use with the aim of maximising their life. *ISO 18938:2008, Imaging materials – Optical discs – Care and handling for extended storage* applies to a wide range of discs including CDs, DVDs, HD DVDs and Blu-ray discs. The standard addresses the issue of physical integrity of the medium to preserve access to the recorded data. These include:

- Use and handling environments, including pollutants, temperature and humidity and light exposure
- Contamination concerns
- Inspection
- Cleaning and maintenance, including cleaning methods and frequency
- Transportation
- Disasters, including water, fire, construction and post-disaster procedures
- Staff training.

The basics of all recommendations are intended for any circumstances where the desired results are long-term use of the medium, whether archival, commercial or personal.

Storage recommendations are given in *ISO 18925:2008, Imaging materials – Optical disc media – Storage practices*.

For further information please visit [www.iso.ch](http://www.iso.ch)



## Opportunities for Scientists

The UK Research Councils, with support from the Science Minister Lord Drayson, have announced an initiative to help universities and research institutions fill skills gaps with scientists who have proven track records in industry and business. The initiative is aimed at talented individuals currently working in the private sector who are looking to switch to a career in the academic sector. The UK Government is supporting the initiative as a way of helping to ensure that the UK holds on to top scientific and research talent in difficult times. Other efforts to encourage two-way movement of skilled people between academia and the

private sector will be strengthened in 2009 through a people-exchange programme.

The Minister Lord Drayton, said, “Many businesses and industries in the UK employ first-rate scientists. In the current economic downturn, some highly qualified people may face uncertain futures so we need to give them all the opportunities we can to stay working in our research base or in wider science based roles. These initiatives are an important part of that effort.”

For further information please visit the research council sites at [www.mrc.ac.uk](http://www.mrc.ac.uk), [www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk](http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk) and [www.bbsrc.ac.uk](http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk)



## ISO Standard for Protective Clothing

A new ISO standard gives the minimum performance requirements for protective clothing worn in situations where users may be exposed to radiant, convective or contact heat, flames, arc flashes and molten metal splashes.

*ISO 11612:2008, Protective clothing – Clothing to protect against heat and flame*, defines three performance levels according to perceived risk. Features include:

- A chapter on clothing design
- Flame spread specifications for seams
- Strength of materials information
- Guidance for the ergonomic assessment of protective clothing
- Optional requirements for water resistance and protection against electric arc
- New marking requirements
- Information on risk assessment and prediction of burn injuries

According to Helmut Eichinger, Chair of the ISO sub-committee, “The new standard not only relies on the latest state of the art technological developments but incorporate lessons-learned during the past few years on safe-guarding people’s safety, particularly in industrial work environments”

For more information, please visit [www.iso.com](http://www.iso.com)