

ISO Certification Process for Quality Management

ISO 9001 is an international standard that specifically lays out criteria and guidelines for **quality management systems**.

Standards like ISO 9001 fall under the ISO 9000 family of quality management criteria; specifically, **ISO 9001:2015** is designed to help companies achieve and maintain a certain level of product or service quality. This, in turn, produces business benefits related to having an established quality management system (QMS), more consistent products, less effort spent on problem resolution, and overall, happier customers.

The ISO 9001 Quality Management Certification Process

1. Set Objectives and Select an Approach

In some instances or in some industries, certification is required or legally required. The first step of the certification should be a thorough **audit of company goals**, including what **benefits you're seeking** and which **implementation approach** will work with your infrastructure.

Organizations should consider the following as they begin preparing for an ISO 9001 quality management system certification:

- a) Registrar's costs for ISO 9001 registration, surveillance, and recertification audits
- b) The current level of conformance with ISO 9001 requirements
- c) Amount of resources that the company will dedicate to this project for development and implementation
- d) Amount of support that will be required from a consultant and the associated costs.

2. Prepare Documentation

The company must **appoint one or more persons** who are familiar with the technical documentation required for an ISO certification in quality management. If not, expect to spend some time on this step **learning and educating** is must

before proceeding. One need to line out the following details at a minimum to prove the company's **commitment to continuous improvement**:

- a) Quality management objectives
- b) Internal policies and procedures to help achieve these objectives
- c) Step-by-step work instructions for how policies are implemented to meet company goals

3. Applying Standards to Internal Processes

Prepared with the above documentation, it would be the time to begin implementing your plan. Though complicated in its own right, this step is made easier when take a thorough assessment of the company, as defined in steps one and two. This process may take several forms, depending on quality management system's requirements:

- a) Applying new specifications or process standardization to workflows
- b) Having upper management circulate information among staff
- c) Updating documentation to reflect new approaches, processes, and procedures

Note that these workflows may change over time. During certification, staff may need to undergo re-training on these new procedures. However, if you document and establish repeatable frameworks for all operations, you'll have an easier time onboarding new workers by preparing them with these ISO-based quality management principles.

4. Post-Implementation Audit

The only way to tell if the company qualify for an ISO 9001 quality management certification (**before their officially apply**, that is) is to **perform an internal audit**. These audits can be split up into smaller reviews across products, processes, or departments – whatever makes sense for the company business. The goal here is to demonstrate the **company's ability to consistently produce products** that meet **regulatory requirements**.

Typically, the **appoint person familiar with the ISO** quality control management certification should be the one **performing the audit**, though it's quite common for businesses to seek outside help in this area.

5. Get Certified by ISO Registrar

When all of the above steps are complete, the company will be ready to work with a third-party certification body that can assess the legitimacy of their quality management ISO certification. This auditor will perform a similar assessment to their internal audit (often after several months of record collection) to verify that the company's new processes truly align with the ISO 9001 system.

This is the final step in the risk management certificate program, but need to make sure that the registrar we choose is accredited by a national certification organization in respective country.

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