



Updating the ISO management system standards

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The [International Organization for Standardization \(ISO\)](#) has amended and expanded its management system standards to take greater account of [climate change](#). To achieve international climate agreements (London Declaration), ISO aims to actively contribute to the fight against climate change. Therefore, companies are expected to consider climate change in their deliberations to take sustainable improvement measures.

For this reason, the management system standards were supplemented with Amendment 1 in February 2024. The changes to mitigate climate effects and adapt to the climate change that is already taking place relate to specific requirements for certification. This includes standards such as ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 45001, ISO 50001, ISO 22000, ISO/IEC 20000, ISO 22301, ISO/IEC 27001, ISO 28000 and ISO 37001.

HERE ARE THE KEY POINTS AT A GLANCE:

Amendments: The adaptations are defined in Chapter 4 of the harmonized structure of the ISO standards, particularly in Annex 2 of the Annex SL of the ISO/IEC Directives Part 1.

NEW REQUIREMENTS

- **Chapter 4.1:** Organizations must now check whether climate change is relevant to them as part of the context analysis: „The organization shall determine whether climate change is a relevant issue“.
- **Chapter 4.2:** Organizations are expected to consider the requirements of stakeholders regarding climate change: „Note: Relevant interested parties can have requirements related to climate change“.

SIGNIFICANCE FOR ORGANIZATIONS

Organizations with ISO certification shall include climate change in their analysis of the business context (section 4.1). If climate change is considered relevant, the impact must be addressed in the management system.

IMPACT ON CERTIFIED MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

According to the IAF, the changes are not new requirements, but rather a clarification of existing requirements. Certificates retain their date of issue and there is no transition period, but the new requirements must be implemented immediately. This means that the application must take place immediately and must be checked directly by the auditors. Failure to do so will immediately result in a non-conformity to be rectified in the audit result.

RELEVANCE FOR VARIOUS STANDARDS

What is new is the explicit expectation that climate change is systematically included in these considerations: To what extent does climate change affect the company and its management system and, conversely, what impact does the company have on climate change? It is important to recognize that the extent of climate change will vary depending on the specific standard, as they are aimed at different fields of application and objectives. Also, the impact will vary depending on the geographical location and the nature of the organization in terms of business sector, processes, products and services, etc.

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

A comprehensive list can be found via the link provided in the [IAF and ISO communiqué](#), where additional [information from the IAF](#) is also available.

Please write a message to our experts if you have any questions on the topic or about our services.

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