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Certification Scheme

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新冠病毒疫情下的ISO安全工作指引

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本局現已成為專業社會責任審核員協會 (APSCA)
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Facilitating Green and Sustainable Economic Development

Though the global economy has been heavily affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, the green bond issuance amount hit a new global peak in 2020. Mr Christopher Hui Ching-yu, Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, recently blogged that developing the green and sustainable economy is very important as it will help facilitate the post-COVID recovery and so has become a hot topic around the world.

The National 14th Five-Year Plan emphasises sustainability strategies and has established "30/60 Carbon Goals". The green finance market will play a significant role in meeting the huge demand for capital to reach these goals. To support our country's development policies, the Hong Kong SAR Government is working hard to consolidate Hong Kong's position as a leading green and sustainable finance hub in the region. The Green and Sustainable Finance Grant Scheme was launched in May 2021 to further enrich the green and sustainable finance ecosystem in Hong Kong.

HKQAA actively supports Hong Kong's financial and sustainable development. Being supported by the Hong Kong SAR Government, we launched the Green Finance Certification Scheme in 2018. In May of this year, in response to Government policies and market needs, we took a further step and rolled out the Green and Sustainable Finance Certification Scheme. Up to now, over 25 billion US dollars' worth of green and sustainable bonds and loans have been certified.

This new Scheme adopted the original Scheme's design and core methodology. However, the scope of certification services has been expanded from 'green' to 'green and sustainable', which includes social, sustainability, sustainability-linked, green and climate transition requirements. We strive to enhance the credibility of green and sustainable financial instruments, and stakeholder confidence in them, via independent, impartial, third-party conformity assessments, thereby facilitating more capital flows to environmental and social projects.

It is hoped that the Scheme can encourage more organisations to make use of Hong Kong's capital markets, and financial and professional services, for green and sustainable investment and financing. We believe our efforts and contribution today will increase the pace of the sustainable economic development of Hong Kong, our country and the world.

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HKQAA's Green and Sustainable Finance Certification Scheme

Following Government Strategies and Market Trends, Facilitating Development of Green and Sustainable Finance

On 4 May 2021, Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) released a guideline on the **Green and Sustainable Finance Grant Scheme (GSF Grant Scheme)**. The GSF Grant Scheme commenced on 10 May 2021 and will last for three years. It provides subsidies for eligible bond issuers and loan borrowers to cover the expenses for bond issuance and external review services.

In alignment with Government strategies and market trends, HKQAA also launched the **Green and Sustainable Finance Certification Scheme** as a pilot programme on the same date. The Scheme aims to strengthen market confidence in sustainable finance projects through professional and impartial third-party conformity assessments, thereby encouraging more capital flows towards green and sustainable uses. This echoes the Government's goals of achieving carbon neutrality before 2050 and developing Hong Kong into a regional green and sustainable finance hub.

Encouraging More Capital Flows Towards Green and Sustainable Uses

As part of HKQAA's commitment to facilitating Hong Kong's financial development, in 2016 we began developing a Green Finance Certification Scheme, with the support of the Hong Kong SAR Government, and rolled it out in 2018. In the same year, the Government announced the launch of its Green Bond Grant Scheme to subsidise eligible green bond issuances which obtain certification.

This year, in response to Government policies, HKQAA launched the Green and Sustainable Finance Certification Scheme, to encourage more entities to make use of Hong Kong's capital markets and financial and professional services for green and sustainable investment and financing. We are delighted that our certification schemes have received a promising response from the business community and stakeholders. Up to now, over 25 billion US dollars' worth of green and sustainable finance have been certified. Recent certification cases include green bond, sustainability bond, green and climate resilience bond, sustainability-linked bond and blue bond.

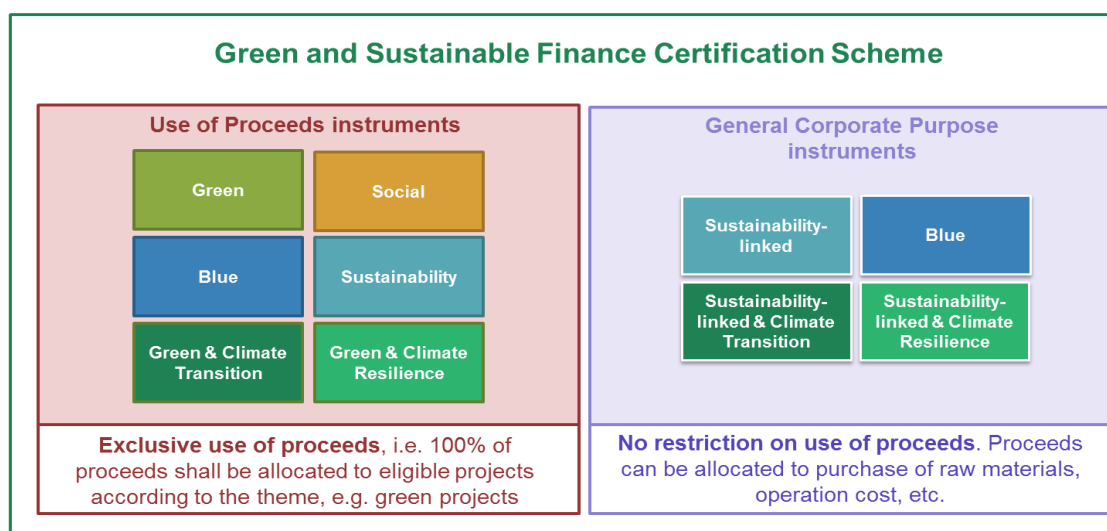
Widely-recognised standards and principles in green and sustainable finance

The Green and Sustainable Finance Certification Scheme was developed with reference to several international and national standards, principles and guidelines. The certification requirements align with those of the International Capital Market Association (ICMA), the Loan Market Association (LMA), Asia Pacific Loan Market Association (APLMA) and the Loan Syndications & Trading Association (LSTA). The new Scheme uses the design and core methodology of the original Green Finance Certification Scheme, which emphasised contributions to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the importance of impact assessment, stakeholder engagement and high transparency.

Expanded Certification Service Scope to Fulfil Diversified Market Needs

In response to market needs, the scope of certification services has been expanded from “green” to “green and sustainable”, which includes the certification themes of Social, Sustainability, Sustainability-linked, Blue and Climate Transition/Resilience. These certification themes are available for two different instrument types – Use of Proceeds Instruments (for example, a Green Bond/Loan) and General Corporate Purposes Instruments (for example, a Sustainability-linked Bond/Loan). This allows the issuer to choose the scope of certification according to the objectives of their financial instrument. Also, for investors and stakeholders, this adjustment better clarifies the use of proceeds and the potential positive impact of the instruments.

Themes of certificate available for application



Choice of green and social classification for use of proceeds

The Scheme now allows applicant to select applicable green and social classification for their use of proceeds according to their investors' preferences and physical location. HKQAA provides a non-exhaustive list of acceptable green and social classifications in the Scheme Handbook. Eligible projects need to conform to the classification selected by the applicant, or to have passed an eligibility process test. Other classifications recognised globally or nationally may also be considered, subject to review by HKQAA via Red Track, on a case-by-case basis. HKQAA will regularly review and update the list to accommodate any new publication of nationally- or internationally-recognised classifications and taxonomies.

List of acceptable green classifications:

1. ICMA - Green Bond Principles (GBP)
2. APLMA, LMA, LSTA - Green Loan Principles
3. ISO 14030-3 Environmental performance evaluation — Green debt instruments — Part 3: Taxonomy
4. EU Final TEG report for Sustainable Finance Taxonomy
5. China Guiding Catalogue for the Green Industry
6. China Green Bond Endorsed Projects Catalogue
7. HKQAA – Green Project Classification

List of acceptable social classifications:

1. ICMA – Social Bond Principles (SBP)
2. APLMA, LMA, LSTA - Social Loan Principles

The list above is not intended to be exhaustive. Other classifications recognized globally or nationally may also be considered subject to review by HKQAA via Red Track on a case-by-case basis.

Keeping up to date with developments in standards and market initiatives in the green and sustainable finance field

Since 2016, the green and sustainable finance market has been growing at enormous speed. In April 2021 alone, the new China Green Bond Endorsed Project Catalogue, 2021 Version, from the People's Bank of China (PBoC), and the European Commission's Taxonomy Climate Delegated Act, were released. ISO 14030, an international standard on environmental performance evaluation for green debt instruments, also progressed to the Final Draft International Standard (FDIS) stage on 28 Apr 2021 and is expected to be officially published by the end of 2021. HKQAA has been closely monitoring new trends and developments in the market and will regularly review the Scheme to accommodate new market initiatives and standards.



HKQAA's participation in developing ISO standard for green and sustainable finance

Our expert was nominated by the China National Institute of Standardization and the Innovation and Technology Commission of the HKSAR Government respectively to directly take part in the related ISO technical committees to develop ISO standards for green and sustainable finance, namely **ISO 14030 Environmental performance evaluation – Green debt instruments** and **ISO 32210 Framework for sustainable finance: Principles and guidance**. We strive to contribute our technical knowledge and experience to the development of international standards so as to facilitate the sustainable development of global capital markets.






HKQAA has become a Recognised External Reviewer of GSF Grant Scheme

It is also our pleasure to receive confirmation from the HKMA that HKQAA has become a **recognised external reviewer for the purpose of the GSF Grant Scheme**, effective from 7 June 2021. Under the GSF Grant Scheme, a bond/ loan must have procured pre-issuance external review services related to the bond issue/ loan that is provided by a recognised external reviewer.

Important Note: The Green and Sustainable Finance Grant Scheme is administered by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), which handles the approval process for grant applications. The certification, external review and other assessment services provided by Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency (HKQAA) do not assume or ensure approval of grant applications.

Highlights of HKMA's Guideline on the Green and Sustainable Finance Grant Scheme*

 <p>Overview</p>	<p>Track I General Bond Issuance Costs: covering bond issuance expenses (e.g. arrangement, legal, audit, listing fees, etc.) for eligible first time green and sustainable bond issuers</p>	<p>Track II External Review Costs: covering transaction-related external review fees (e.g. including pre-issuance external review and post issuance external review or reporting) for eligible green and sustainable bond issuers and loan borrowers, including first-time and repeated issuers and borrowers.</p>
 <p>Target Applicant</p>	<p>First-time green and sustainable bond issuers are issuers that have not issued green and sustainable bonds in Hong Kong in the rolling five-year period prior to the bond's pricing date.</p> <p>Arrangers of GSF Grant Scheme bonds are not eligible as issuers of the GSF Grant Scheme.</p>	<p>Green and sustainable bond issuers and loan borrowers, including first-time and repeated issuers and borrowers.</p> <p>Arrangers/lenders of GSF Grant Scheme bonds/loans are not eligible as issuers/borrowers of the GSF Grant Scheme.</p>
 <p>Grant Amount</p>	<p>The grant amount for each green and sustainable bond issue is equivalent to half of the eligible expenses, up to the following limits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HK\$2.5 million where the bond, its issuer or its guarantor(s) possess a credit rating by a rating agency recognised by the HKMA; or • HK\$1.25 million where none of the bond, its issuer or its guarantor(s) possess a credit rating by a rating agency recognised by the HKMA. <p>Each issuer can apply for a grant for two green and sustainable bond issuances at most.</p>	<p>Full cost of eligible expenses paid to recognised external reviewers, capped at HK\$800,000 per bond issuance/loan.</p> <p>Source: HKMA's Guideline on the Green and Sustainable Finance Grant Scheme</p>

*Remarks: The above table was interpreted and summarized from the key points of the HKMA's Guideline on the Green and Sustainable Finance Grant Scheme. The most updated version of the HKMA's Guideline shall prevail in the event of a conflict with the above table.

For further information or applying for the GSF Grant Scheme, please contact Hong Kong Monetary Authority at gsfgs@hkma.gov.hk.

A guideline on the GSF Grant Scheme is also available on the HKMA's website: (<https://www.hkma.gov.hk/media/eng/doc/key-information/press-release/2021/20210504e4a1.pdf>).

New ISO Guidance for safe working during the COVID-19 pandemic

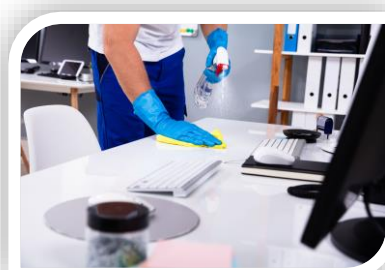
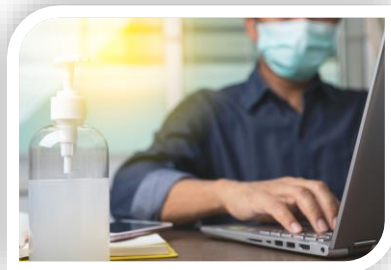
Dr Nigel H Croft

Associate Technical Director, HKQAA
Chair, ISO Joint Technical Coordination Group for
Management System Standards



Most readers will be very familiar with the ISO 45001 standard “Occupational health and safety management systems — Requirements with guidance for use”, which provides generic requirements for organizations to promote safe and healthy workplaces aimed at preventing work-related injury and ill health.

2020, however, will be remembered as the year that changed the world. COVID-19 has altered the way we look at our lives, the way we behave, and the way we do business. As a direct result of the pandemic, the health and safety risks that are typically faced by the vast majority of organizations have changed dramatically. Although ISO 45001 continues to provide an excellent basis for a generic OH&SMS, ISO has developed additional guidance to address these challenges via its ISO/PAS 45005 (“Occupational health and safety management - General guidelines for safe working during the COVID-19 pandemic”), published in December 2020. ISO typically develops such Publicly Available Specifications (PAS) with a “fast-track” process using a streamlined consensus-building process to respond to an urgent market need.



Structure and content of ISO/PAS 45005:2020

ISO/PAS 45005 provides a set of generic guidelines that complements the information published by governments, regulators and other professional bodies across the world. It is based on the principles that:

- reasonable measures to manage the risks arising from COVID-19 should be implemented to protect the health and safety of workers and other relevant interested parties;
- workers should not be required to work unless these measures have been implemented.

Although ISO/PAS 45005 is not required to follow the traditional “Annex SL” clause structure that is common to management system standards, it does adopt a risk-based “Plan-Do-Check-Act” approach. It aims to address the increased risk that COVID-19 presents to the health, safety and well-being of people in all settings, including those working at home or in mobile settings, and workers and other interested parties in physical workplaces.

PAS 45005 is applicable to organizations of all sizes and sectors, including those that have been operating throughout the pandemic, are resuming or planning to resume operations following full or partial closure, re-occupying workplaces that have been fully or partially closed or new organizations that are planning to operate for the first time.

It also provides guidance relating to the protection of workers of all types (for example workers employed by the organization, workers from external providers, contractors, self-employed individuals, agency workers, older workers, workers with a disability and first responders), and other relevant interested parties (e.g. visitors to a workplace, including members of the public). It is important to recognize that in all these contexts, there are a variety of approaches that can be taken to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus.

These include measures that can be applied by reorganizing work, minimizing human contact, applying social distancing, limiting the number of people travelling together in vehicles, avoiding the sharing of drinks and food, and applying hygiene measures throughout the course of work.

There are also steps that can be taken to adapt the layout of premises in order to increase separation between workers, or between workers and the public, as well as to improve ventilation and to sanitize surfaces, for example.



This emphasis on identifying and mitigating risks associated with COVID-19 is present throughout the 14 Clauses of Guidance provided in ISO/PAS 45005, but is particularly emphasized in Clause 4 (Planning and assessment of risks). This includes a consideration of a number of topics including:

- the context of the organization; the specific external and internal issues that can affect the health and safety of workers and how these issues are impacted by the pandemic.
 - External issues can include, for example, the prevalence of COVID-19 within the local community; the availability of clinical services, testing, treatments and vaccines; availability of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), hand sanitizers, thermometers, cleaning and disinfection materials; how workers travel to and from work (e.g. public transport, car, bicycle, walking); workers' access to childcare and schooling for their children; the suitability of a worker's home for remote working; workers' domestic situations (e.g. living with someone who is considered to be at higher risk of contracting COVID-19 or getting severe illness from COVID-19).
 - Internal issues might include the type of organization and related activities (e.g. manufacturing, services, retail, social care, training or other education, delivery, distribution); the type of workers in the organization (e.g. employed, contractors, volunteers, freelance, part-time, shift workers, remote workers); the number and types of workplaces (e.g. offices, factories, workshops, warehouses, vehicles, retail outlets, workers' own homes, other people's homes) and the demographics of workers (e.g. workers with disabilities, workers from different ethnic and faith groups, and workers of different ages) among other considerations.
- Leadership and the involvement of workers in assessing and mitigating risks
- Detailed guidance for activities that are carried out at physical workplaces, home working, working in other people's homes (for example, care providers or maintenance/service engineers), multiple locations or mobile workplaces
- Emergency preparedness and response
- Planning for changes to restrictions

Clause 5 includes guidance on how to manage suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 illness in a physical workplace, at home or in mobile settings as well as considerations about testing, contact tracing and quarantine requirements

Clause 6 covers psychological health and well-being associated with the pandemic. It provides guidance on these aspects, including those associated with uncertainty (e.g. about what is expected, how long arrangements can last, impact on pay or working hours); workload and work pace, unpredictable working hours, lack of social support (e.g. loneliness, physical isolation, communication issues) and impacts of prolonged isolation and remote working (e.g. overexposure to screens, tiredness, boredom, lack of concentration, insomnia)

Clause 7 addresses Inclusivity - how to take into account the impacts on different groups of workers and other relevant interested parties, including those with disabilities and those who might be particularly vulnerable.

Clause 8 provides guidance on human, financial and other resource needs (e.g. PPEs, hand sanitization facilities and others)

Clause 9 stresses the importance of good communications to keep workers and other relevant interested parties informed

Clause 10 provides guidance on hygiene to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 from contaminated surfaces, and to enable good hygiene throughout working hours and at the end of each working shift.

Clause 11 addresses the use of PPEs, masks and other face coverings.

Clause 12 includes considerations on operations - entering, leaving and moving around between workplaces; use of common areas (including toilets and meeting rooms); working with the public and work-related travel

Clause 13 includes guidance on performance evaluation - monitoring, evaluation, management review, incidents and reporting

Clause 14 completes the "Plan-do-Check-Act" cycle by promoting improvement - reacting to changes in the organization's context and the effectiveness of risk mitigation measures related to COVID-19 health and safety issues

ISO/PAS 45005 also contains two informative annexes (on protective security and accessibility / inclusion considerations) as well as a comprehensive bibliography.

Conclusions

The recently-published ISO/PAS 45005 provides a comprehensive set of guidelines that can be used (preferably within an ISO 45001-based Occupational Health and Safety Management System) to help organizations minimise the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their workforce. As with many COVID-19 related standards, ISO/PAS 45005 is available for free consultation on the ISO website <https://www.iso.org/covid19-home>

Quality Building Award 2020 Ceremony Successfully Held

Quality Building Award (QBA) is a biennial Award founded in 2002 by HKQAA and eight professional organisations to recognise quality building teams that help construct buildings with outstanding qualities. The QBA 2020 Award Presentation Ceremony was held on 2 June 2021 at the Grand Hyatt Hong Kong. **The Hon Mrs Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor, GBM, GBS**, The Chief Executive of the HKSAR, was the Guest of Honour.

HKQAA is pleased to be the **QBA 2020 Alternate Chair** and Ir Peter Mok, its Honorary Chairman, is the Chairman of QBA 2020 Organizing Committee. Ir Mok said, "It encourages us to receive an enthusiastic response this year. In a time of changes and uncertainties, the building industry safeguards the betterment of the society with unswerving commitment, heart and care. Their professionalism and pursuit of excellence has transformed the community and will bring profound benefits for generations to come. On behalf of the Organizing Committee, I thank the jury panels for making the uneasy decision of choosing the best from the best."



- Ir Peter Mok, Chairman of QBA 2020 Organizing Committee; Honorary Chairman of HKQAA, delivered the welcome speech.



- The Hon Mrs Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor, GBM, GBS, The Chief Executive of the HKSAR, was the Guest of Honour.



- Ir C S Ho, Deputy Chairman of the QBA 2020 Organizing Committee; Chairman of HKQAA, delivered a speech.



- Mr Yu Tak Cheung, JP, Chairman of the Jury Panel of QBA 2020, and Director of Buildings, shared his insightful comments with awardees.



- Group Photo: (from left)
Mr PC Chan, Sponsorship Sub-com Chair of QBA 2020, Ms Athena Chau, PR Sub-com Chair of QBA 2020, Mr Michael Lam, CEO of HKQAA, Ir CS Ho, Mrs Carrie Lam, Ir Peter Mok, Mr Michael Wong, Secretary for Development, Mr Yu Tak Cheung, Ir Paul Chung, Jury Sub-com Chair of QBA 2020.



- A celebrated moment the grand award winners across the 5 award categories with Mrs Carrie Lam, Mr Michael Wong and Mr Yu Tak Cheung.



- The award presentation ceremony marked the end of QBA 2020. QBA 2022 will be led by Hong Kong Institute of Construction Managers. Ir Peter Mok passed on the chairing association baton to Cr Tang Chi Wang, OC Chair of QBA 2022.



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Trade and Industrial Organisation Support Fund



“Practice Note on Cold Chain Management”

Experience Sharing Seminar-cum-Presentation Ceremony

The Hong Kong Logistics Association (HKLA) has developed a “Practice Note on cold chain management to enable the sustainable development of the logistics industry”. The development project was funded by the Trade and Industrial Organisation Support Fund (TSF), and HKQAA was the implementation agent. The aim of the Practice Note is to help improve the management performance and competitiveness of the local cold chain industry.

An **Experience Sharing Seminar-cum-Presentation Ceremony** for the Project was held on 5 March 2021 at Hotel Icon. Due to the pandemic, this event was also broadcast via Zoom.

Ms Christina Chong, Deputy Secretary for Transport and Housing (Transport) (Left photo) was the officiating guest and delivered the opening remarks. Ms Chong said that the Project would meet industry needs and strengthen the management operations of the cold chain industry.

Ir Yuen May Yee, President of HKLA (Middle photo), pointed out that, by developing the Practice Note, they expect to help the industry keep pace with international and Mainland markets, and enhance their industry's image.

Mr K T Ting, Director, Strategic Services Development, HKQAA (Right photo), said that by working together logistics organisations can be motivated to improve their performance and establish a sound management system for cold chain logistics. This will increase client confidence and so strengthen Hong Kong's position as an international logistics centre.





From left to right : Dr Tang Wai Chung, Chairman, Cold Chain Logistics Committee, HKLA, Ir Yuen May Yee, President of HKLA, Ms Christina Chong, Deputy Secretary for Transport and Housing (Transport), Mr K T Ting, Director, Strategic Services Development, HKQAA and Ir Stephen Chan, Honourable President & Advisor of HKLA



From left to right : Ir Yuen May Yee, President of HKLA, Ms Christina Chong, Deputy Secretary for Transport and Housing (Transport), Mr K T Ting, Director, Strategic Services Development of HKQAA



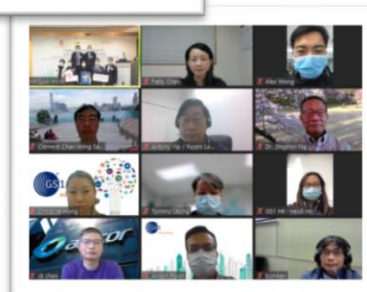
Upper row, from left to right: Ir Dannies Ho, Chairman, the Institute of Purchasing & Supply of Hong Kong, Mr Ken Chung, Chairman, the Chamber of Hong Kong Logistics Industry

Lower row, from left to right: Anna Lin, JP, FCILT, Chief Executive, GS1 Hong Kong, Ir Yuen May Yee, President of HKLA, Ms Christina Chong, Deputy Secretary for Transport and Housing (Transport), Mr K T Ting, Director, Strategic Services Development of HKQAA, and Mr Sunny Ho, MH, JP, Executive Director of the Hong Kong Shippers' Council

Other guest speakers, Dr Tang Wai Chung, Executive Vice President, HKLA; Chairman, Cold Chain Logistics Committee (Left photo), shared the challenges and opportunities facing the Hong Kong logistics industry. Ms Meico Cheong, General Manager, Intelligence Business, HKQAA (Right photo) introduced the Project and the Practice Note on Cold Chain Management.



A Presentation Ceremony for the Project's pilot programme was also held during the event to recognise the participating organisations. The pilot aimed at encouraging the industry to apply the Practice Note. Two participants shared their experience of the pilot: Mr Aaron Wong, Director - Supply Chain, HK, Nestlé Hong Kong Limited; and Mr Brian Tang, Assistant Customer Management Manager, Hi-Speed Supply Chain Limited.



The "Guidelines for the Cold Chain Management System" for the logistics industry were also launched at the event. The HKQAA technical team summarised and analysed data collected during site visits, then compiled them into this publication. The Guidelines cover development trends and opportunities for the logistics industry in Hong Kong, and highlight the main points of the Practice Note.

To download the Practice Note (Chinese only), click [here](https://www.hkla.org.hk/冷鏈物流/) (<https://www.hkla.org.hk/冷鏈物流/>) or visit HKLA's project website.

Click [here](https://www.hkla.org.hk/冷鏈物流/) to view the Practice Note (Chinese only)



If you have any enquiries, please contact **Ms Wendy Cheung**

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“Food Hygiene and Safety Charter” Presentation Ceremony-cum-Sharing Seminar

The Association for Hong Kong Catering Services Management Limited rolled out a 24-month project called “Introduction of Food Hygiene Standard FHS 001: 2013 to Improve the Operation of Food Hygiene and Safety Performance in Hong Kong Catering Sector”. HKQAA acted as the implementation agent and developed the “Food Hygiene and Safety Charter” for this project, which was funded by the SME Development Fund of the Trade and Industry Department. The Charter aims to promote understanding of the importance and applicability of the FHS system by organising training courses and one-to-one onsite consultations.

On 26 March 2021, a **Presentation Ceremony-cum-Sharing Seminar** was held at Hotel Icon to recognise participating restaurants and provide a forum for them to share their valuable insights and experience. Due to the pandemic, this event was also broadcast via Zoom.



From left to right: Mr Leung Chun Wah, Chairman of the Association for Hong Kong Catering Services Management Limited, Mr Yeung Wai Sing, BBS, MH, President, Association for Hong Kong Catering Services Management Limited, Dr Ng Chi Cheung, Principle Medical Officer (Risk Assessment & Communication), Centre for Food Safety, and Mr P C Chan, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of HKQAA.



Dr Ng Chi Cheung, Principle Medical Officer (Risk Assessment & Communication), Centre for Food Safety (Left photo), was the officiating guest. He said that both The Food Hygiene Standard FHS 001: 2013 and the Food Hygiene and Safety Charter provided in-depth food preparation procedures and hygiene measures for the catering sector to follow, which would help enhance the food safety performance of participating restaurants.

Mr Leung Chun Wah, Chairman of the Association for Hong Kong Catering Services Management Limited (Middle photo), said that we need to keep up with societal trends. He expressed his gratitude to all the participants for joining the Scheme, and expressed the hope that the industry will optimise Hong Kong food hygiene and safety standards.

Mr P C Chan, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of HKQAA, added that, with the industry's support, we can motivate more restaurants to improve and put the Food Hygiene Standard into practice. Thereby they can enhance the food safety and hygiene level, increase consumer confidence, and strengthen Hong Kong's position as a gourmet capital.



Representatives from supporting organisations

Upper row, from left to right: Dr Ka Hing Wong, Executive Director, Food Safety and Technology Research Centre, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University; Ms Yan Ming Chu, Vice President of Institution of Dining Art.
Lower row, from left to right: Mr Leung Chun Wah, Chairman of the Association for Hong Kong Catering Services Management Limited; Mr Yeung Wai Sing, BBS, MH, President, Association for Hong Kong Catering Services Management Limited; Dr Ng Chi Cheung, Principal Medical Officer (Risk Assessment & Communication), Centre for Food Safety; and Mr P C Chan, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of HKQAA.

After the speeches, the participating organisations from the Charter received certificates. Mr Chan Wai Keung from Fresh Seafood Restaurant (Right photo) and Mr Lee Pak Lam from Ngan Lung Restaurant, shared their experience of participating in the pilot programme. Later, Ms Meico Chong, General Manager, Intelligence Business, HKQAA (Middle photo) introduced the Project.



Mr Yeung Wai Sing, BBS, MH, President, Association for Hong Kong Catering Services Management Limited, presented certificates to representatives of the Charter Scheme.



[Click here](#) to view
Result Report
(Chinese Only)

Please click [here](http://hkcsm.com/category/hkqaa-fhs/) (<http://hkcsm.com/category/hkqaa-fhs/>) to visit the project website and access the "Introduction of Food Hygiene Standard FHS 001: 2013 to improve the operation of food hygiene and safety performance in Hong Kong catering sector" (Chinese only). Click [here](http://www.hkqaa.org/cmsimg/FHS001/FHS_Booklet_9.68mb.pdf) (http://www.hkqaa.org/cmsimg/FHS001/FHS_Booklet_9.68mb.pdf) to download the " Food Hygiene and Safety Charter" Result Report (Chinese only).



If you have any enquiries, please contact **Ms Wendy Cheung**

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Any opinions, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in the material/event (or by members of the project team) do not reflect the views of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region or the Vetting Committee of the Trade and Industrial Organisation Support Fund.

MoU Signed with Guangzhou Development District Financial Bureau

On 5 February 2021, HKQAA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Guangzhou Development District Financial Bureau. In accordance with the strategy of green development in the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the MoU aims to utilise the advantages of both parties to jointly promote the development of green finance and the green transformation of enterprises through green finance certification services. This will facilitate green bond issuance, cross-border investment and the sustainability of enterprises.

HKQAA will work with our strategic partner, the Asia Youth Think Tank, to further the green finance development of Hong Kong and the Guangzhou Development District. With the strong support of the Think Tank, HKQAA has consolidated the framework for collaboration with the Guangzhou Development District Financial Bureau.

In light of the pandemic, the MOU signing event was held via video conference. The MoU was signed by Dr Michael Lam, CEO of HKQAA (middle, left photo), and Mr. Tang Keming, Deputy Director of Guangzhou Development District Financial Bureau (middle, right photo).

Mr. P C Chan, Deputy CEO of HKQAA (left, left photo) and Mr. Luo Wenqi, Chairman of Asia Youth Think Tank (left, right photo) spoke about their vision for further exchange in the area of green finance, which will promote the green transformation of enterprises and foster the sustainable development of the region.



MoU Signed with Guangdong Environment Exchange

On 27 April 2021, Guangdong Environment Exchange hosted the Green Finance Innovation Development Forum-"Green Connect" Launch Ceremony. At the event in the Guangzhou Development District, the organization held a MoU ceremony for establishing the strategic partnership with HKQAA in promoting the green finance in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA). The MoU aims to strengthen cooperation in the areas of sustainable finance, green finance, climate investment and carbon finance. In making the most of the strengths of each party, the partnership aims to promote the development of green finance in the GBA.

Dr Michael Lam, Chief Executive Officer of HKQAA, delivered a video speech at the event. He said that he expected both parties to make the most of the historic opportunities arising from the development of the GBA to jointly facilitate green finance in the region, following the Chinese Government's green development strategies. In doing so, a greater contribution will be made to the sustainable development of the economy and the environment.



MoU Signed with Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation

On 3 March 2021, HKQAA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation. Our aim is to utilise the advantage of both parties to jointly promote the development of sustainable finance and green industry through conformity assessment and training, and thereby pave the way to a greener and more sustainable future.

The MoU was signed by Dr Michael Lam, CEO of HKQAA (left, right photo), and Mr. Yoshiyuki Ogata, Chief Executive and General Manager of Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, Hong Kong branch (right, right photo). Both parties introduced the overview and the latest development of the organisations. The parties spoke about their expectations for further exchange and cooperation.

The MoU will utilise the strengths and resources of both parties to explore new commercial and business opportunities in the sustainable and green finance market and make contributions to a more sustainable future.



Participating in Consumer Confidence and Quality Assurance Forum

The "Consumer Confidence and Quality Assurance Forum 2021" was held in Guangzhou on 30 March 2021. Ms Sa Sa Cai, Assistant General Manager of HKQAA, was the guest speaker. Various topics were discussed in the Forum, including consumer confidence, quality assurance, how to promote quality in the Greater Bay Area, and strengthen the collaboration between HKQAA and mainland.

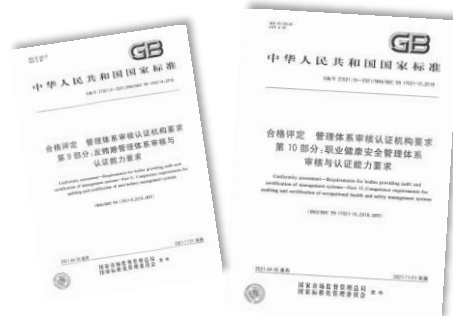
200 management representatives from Guangdong and Guangzhou Consumer Committees, NGOs, law firms and renowned enterprises, attended the event.



Participating in the Development of National Standards : Requirements for Bodies Providing Audit and Certification - Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems and Anti-bribery Management Systems

As a leading conformity assessment organisation in the region, HKQAA does not only introduce advanced international standards to the industry, but also actively participate in National and international standards development.

HKQAA's wholly-owned subsidiary in the Mainland China, **HKQAA Certification (Shanghai) Ltd**, was invited by the National Technical Committee on Certification and Accreditation of Standardization Administration of China to participate in the development of the Requirements for Bodies Providing Audit and Certification - **ISO/IEC TS 17021-10 Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems** and **ISO/IEC TS 17021-9 Anti-bribery Management Systems**. Our experienced expert, Ms Julie Zhao, Director of HKQAA, joined the National Standard's drafting expert groups for establishing these two standards, which were published on 30 April 2021 and will be implemented on 1 November 2021.



HKQAA Obtained the APSCA Full Membership

HKQAA is pleased to announce that it has obtained the **full membership** of **Association of Professional Social Compliance Auditors (APSCA)**.

APSCA is the industry association created to support individuals and organizations by promoting the use of independent social compliance audits as a tool to advance workplace conditions globally. Its mission is to enhance the professionalism, consistency and credibility of individual auditors and organizations performing independent social compliance audits.

As a highly recognised association in the international market, APSCA is governed by an Executive Board administered by an independent Chair. Additional to the Executive Board, APSCA is serviced by a dedicated, multi-stakeholder Board with independent, brand, retail, initiative and independent representation, including **the Walt Disney Company, the Home Depot, Walmart, Lidl, amfori, Social Accountability International (SAI), Sedex, and Worldwide Responsible Accredited Production (WRAP)**.

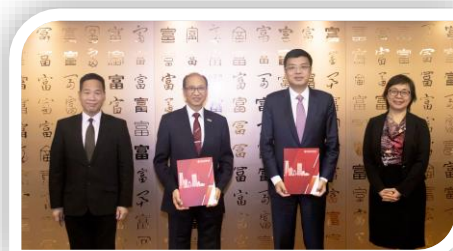
HKQAA will help contribute to the improvement of social compliance audit quality and workplace conditions in the long run.

MoU signed with CMB Wing Lung Bank Limited

On 10 June 2021, HKQAA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on green finance with CMB Wing Lung Bank Limited. The MoU will promote the development of green and sustainable finance in the Greater Bay Area (GBA) by focusing on sustainable and green loan guidelines, sustainable and green financial product development, green building certification, green enterprise transformation and green enterprise certification. The collaboration between the two organisations furthers the national commitment to reaching peak carbon emissions in 2030 and carbon neutrality in 2060, and contributes to Hong Kong's role as a green finance centre in the GBA.

The MoU was signed by Dr Michael Lam, CEO of HKQAA (left, left photo) and Mr Hong Bo, CEO of CMB Wing Lung Bank Limited (right, right photo). Mr P C Chan, Deputy CEO of HKQAA (left 1, right photo) and Ms Song Lihua, Deputy General Manager of CMB Wing Lung Bank Limited (right 1, right photo) spoke about their expectations for further cooperation.

The MoU will utilise the strengths and resources of both parties to facilitate sustainable economic development in the region.



Memorable Moments

From February to April 2021, we have been pleased to welcome various organisations to our community. They have obtained certificates in the following areas respectively:

- ISO 9001 Quality Management System
- ISO 13485 Medical Devices Quality Management Systems
- ISO 14001 Environmental Management System
- ISO 22000 Food Safety Management System
- ISO 22716 Cosmetics Good Manufacturing Practices
- ISO 27001 Information Security Management Systems
- ISO 45001 Occupational Health and Safety Management
- ISO 50001 Energy Management Systems Certification
- Quality Scheme for the Production and Supply of Concrete (QSPSC)
- SA8000 Social Accountability Management
- Anti-Epidemic Hygiene Measures Certification Scheme
- US FDA GMPC Cosmetic Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP)
- Green Finance Pre-issuance Stage Certificate
- Green Finance Post-issuance Stage Certificate
- Good Standardizing Practice for Enterprises Evaluation Service
- Residential Care Home for the Elderly Certification Scheme
- HKQAA-HACCP
- HKQAA- Hygiene Control System
- TL 9000 Quality Management System for the Telecom Industry

We believe the new clients will contribute to the overall success of the brand that prides itself on adding value to stakeholders.

International News

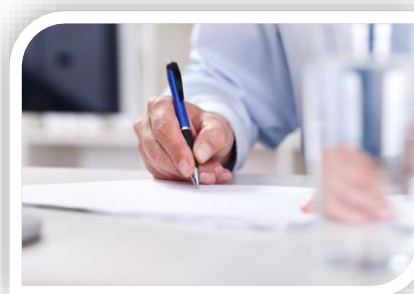
New ISO requirements standard for Compliance Management

An effective, organization-wide compliance management system ("CMC") enables an organization to demonstrate its commitment to comply with relevant laws, regulatory requirements, industry codes and organizational standards, as well as standards of good governance, generally accepted best practices, ethics and community expectations.

ISO 19600 (Compliance management systems – Guidelines) was first published in 2014, and although it has been used widely around the world as the basis for organizations to implement effective and responsive compliance management systems, the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) rules state that "only standards that contain requirements may be certified by accredited certification bodies". Partly with this in mind, work began in 2018 by ISO's Technical Committee TC309 ("Governance of Organizations") to transform ISO 19600 into a requirement standard, to be renumbered as ISO 37301. This new standard was published in April 2021.

Although it is only mandatory to apply the "Annex SL" structure and core text to **requirements** standards, it was fortuitous that the project committee responsible for developing ISO 19600 had chosen to adopt the same structure for this **guidance** standard. That means ISO 37301:2021 ("Compliance management systems — Requirements with guidance for use") will look very similar to ISO 19600, though some additional changes have been made over and above simply changing "should's" (guidance) into "shall's" (requirements).

Because ISO/TC309 was active in the multi-stakeholder revision of Annex SL (to be published in the May 2021 edition of the ISO Directives) ISO 37301 will also be one of the first management system standards in ISO's portfolio to adopt this new version.

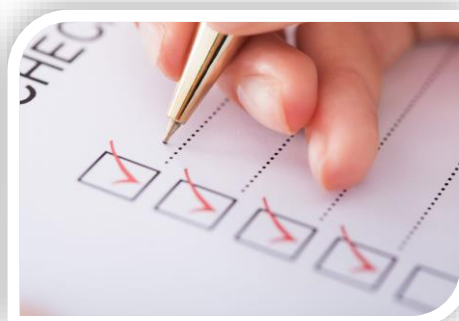


It is not the intent of this short news item to detail all the changes that have been introduced, but some of these include:

- Small changes and simplification of the terminology provided in Clause 3
- The differences between "top management" and a "governing body" have been better explained
- Clause 4.6 "Compliance risk assessment" has been simplified quite considerably compared to Clause 4.6 of ISO 19600 ("Identification, analysis and evaluation of compliance risks")
- New sub-clauses 5.1.2 ("Compliance culture") and 5.1.3 ("Compliance governance") have been added in Clause 5 (Leadership)
- Clause 6.1 changed to address "Compliance risks **and opportunities**"
- A new Subclause 6.3 has been added ("Planning of changes"), in line with the new version of Annex SL
- A new subclause 7.2.2 has been added "Employment process"
- New subclauses 8.3 "Raising concerns" and 8.4 "Investigation processes" focus on encouraging and enabling the reporting of attempted, suspected or actual violations of the compliance policy or compliance obligations (in cases where there are reasonable grounds to believe that the information is true).
- A lot of the detail in Clause 9 of ISO 19600 (Monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation) has now been transferred to the Informative Annex of ISO 37301

It is also important to note that the competence requirements for 3rd party auditing and certification of compliance management systems is also expected to be published shortly, as ISO 17021-13:2021.

In response to the needs of industry, HKQAA will provide certification service for ISO 37301.



For further details on HKQAA's certification and supporting services, please contact us at:



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Proficiency Certificate in Sustainable Development Planning

可持續發展規劃基礎證書課程

E-learning 網上課程

2015年9月，「聯合國」大會通過了《2030年可持續發展議程》，明確了2030年的全球願景和優先事項，設定了未來15年全球應對經濟、社會和環境挑戰的17個可持續發展目標（下稱全球目標SDGs），這為推動全球踏上可持續發展道路創造了前所未有的機遇。據《商業與可持續發展委員會》研究顯示，“全球目標”將在全球範圍內帶來顯著的商業效應，創造價值超過12萬億美元的商業機會和多達3.8億個新的工作崗位。

為了推廣經濟、教育、環保等可持續發展概念，香港品質保證局與香港可持續發展教育學院合作開辦課程，適合有工作經驗的人員參加。

課程內容

- 瞭解聯合國17個可持續發展目標
- 認識現代全球氣候改變及自然資源減少的挑戰
- 思考您所服務的行業與三個可持續發展目標的聯繫
- 思考您為全球氣候改變可行的事項



Date 日期	30 July 2021 2021年7月30日
Time 時間	9:30 am to 1pm 上午9時30分至下午1時
Language 語言	Cantonese with English materials 粵語 - 輔以英文講義

ISO 21001:2018 Management systems for educational organizations

ISO 21001:2018 教育機構管理系統

Introduction E-learning 初階網上課程

課程對象

此課程適合從事以下相關工作或有興趣認識ISO 21001標準之人士報讀

- 人力資源
- 行政管理
- 教育機構
- 學習與發展(Learning & Development)

課程內容

- 介紹教育機構管理系統的發展及背景
- 持續改進教育和培訓過程
- 教育及培訓學習服務的成功因素
- 企業教育及培訓網上平台介紹
- 企業教育及培訓網上平台成本控制

Date 日期	20 July 2021 2021年7月20日
Time 時間	9:30 am – 12:30 pm 上午9時30分至下午12時30分
Language 語言	Cantonese 粵語