

Addition of Climate Change Considerations to Management Systems Standards by ISO

In support of the ISO London Declaration on Climate Change, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) added two new statements to a number of existing management systems standards in Feb 2024. The new statements aim to address the need to consider the effect of Climate Change on the ability to achieve the intended results of the management systems. The two statements will also be included in all new management systems standards under development/ revision.

Certified organizations should ensure that they have considered Climate Change aspects and risks within the development, maintenance, and effectiveness their own management system(s). Climate Change, along with other issues, should be determined as relevant or not and if so, considered within an evaluation of risk, within the scope of the management systems standards. Where an organization operates more than one management system (for example Quality Management and Health and Safety Management), it should ensure that Climate Change, if determined to be relevant, is considered within the scope of each management system standard. Where a certified organization cannot demonstrate that all external and internal issues that have been determined as relevant, including Climate Change, have been considered, a suitable finding should be raised by certification bodies.

This amendment is treated as a clarification rather than a new requirement, thus a full transition programme is not needed and no revised certificate will be issued.

Please refer to the following from International Accreditation Forum (IAF) for further details:

- “IAF/ISO Joint Communiqué on the addition of Climate Change considerations to Management Systems Standards”
https://iaf.nu/iaf_system/uploads/documents/Joint_ISO-IAF_Communique_re_Climate_Change_Amds_to_ISO_MSS_Feb_2024_Final.pdf
- “IAF and ISO Publish Joint Communiqué”
<https://iaf.nu/en/news/iaf-and-iso-publish-joint-communique/>

A “Frequently Asked Questions - Addition of Climate Change Considerations to Management Systems Standards by ISO” is appended for your reference.

Frequently Asked Questions – Addition of Climate Change Considerations to Management Systems Standards by ISO

Q. What should certified organizations do for this amendment?

A. Certified organizations should ensure that they have considered Climate Change aspects and risks within the development, maintenance, and effectiveness of their own management system(s). Climate Change, along with other issues, should be determined as relevant or not and if so, considered within an evaluation of risk, within the scope of the management systems standards.

Q. What is the consequence if a certified organization cannot demonstrate that all external and internal issues that have been determined as relevant, including Climate Change, have been considered?

A. The certification body will raise a suitable audit finding (e.g. Area for Improvement).

Q. Should the certificate be revised?

A. There is no need to revise the certificate.