

These standards have changed and companies certified to any of these need to upgrade their systems and have their certification body carry out a transition audit before September 2018. After this date, they will no longer be certified unless they have upgraded. Because of anticipated pressures on certification bodies as the cut-off date approaches, I strongly advise that this be done in 2017.

The purpose of this white paper is to state what changes need to be made where the systems follow the standard Strategic Safety Systems format, and will therefore tackle the changes in the order of the procedure numbers.

What are the main changes?

The standards now have clause numbers and clause content which are the same as each other where feasible. So Management Review is 9.3 in all systems (it used to be 5.6 in ISO 9001:2008 and 4.6 in ISO 14001:2004). This means that all of the clause numbers have changed, so that where they are referenced in procedures, then the procedures need their references changing.

There is more emphasis on how the organisation fits into the bigger picture, something that is referred to as context. For example, one of our clients makes dust control equipment and their 14001 system includes a statement that their environmental effects are not just the use of energy, paint solvents, etc., or events that stop at the boundary. They include the benefits that their products provide which may be the prevention of a dust cloud at a client site. Similarly, interested parties need to be identified.

There is also the emphasis on managerial ownership. Previous practices by some senior managers in delegating all tasks to a subordinate and taking no interest are no longer acceptable. The most senior person in the organisation must be involved, but with large organisations, this normally stops at the site, ie the General Manager, rather than someone at head office.

The standards now have a risk content, but this has always been present in the structure of SSS systems anyway.

One approach in the new standards (apart from AS9100:2016) is that a manual is no longer required; as long as your practices meet the requirements of the standards, then that is acceptable. Like most people, I find this dangerous and unworkable; you may have someone in a key role who carries out all required tasks, but if that person leaves, then all the tasks he needed to carry out may get omitted if nobody else knew what he did.

System changes

1.03 Scope

This is now part of 3.2.

1.1 Management Review

This has changed to include some additional agenda items.

1.3 Change management

This is now included in all systems; in some it was omitted.

2 Policies

The QA and Environmental policies both change slightly to address requirements for commitments to enhance the environment and to meet "compliance obligations", rather than just legal obligations.

3.1 Aspects and Impacts

These change to include end-of-life considerations. For those using INTACT, this has been upgraded to include this.

3.2 Context and scope

This is a new procedure and describes the context of the organisation, external and internal issues. Once written, no action other than periodic review is required unless the organisation changes.

3.3 Objectives and targets

The standard has changed but all that has happened is that the standard has now been brought up to the level where it spells out how we've always managed objectives and targets in SSS systems. There is also a requirement that the outcomes of risks are used to set objectives; ie the same as has always been done with aspects and impacts.

3.5 Register

This used to be called the Register of Legislation, but it is now called the Compliance Register. It includes industry practices with which a company should be complying. With the majority of SSS clients, they are already complying with such practices and this just formalises it.

3.6 Risks, opportunities and interested parties

This is a new system with a risk identification and ranking methodology. For those with INTACT, it has a new feature for this, but SSS can also provide a spreadsheet for those that do not use INTACT.

There is a cross-over with environmental aspects and impacts, with some duplication. With regard to QA issues, then items that companies would already have in their business continuity plan would also be listed here. Interested parties covers clients, shareholders, employees, neighbours, local authorities and many other areas and would include what their expectations are and whether or not these are being met.

4.1 Roles and accountabilities

This changes slightly to add some bullet points

4.2 Training

This changes to include the assessment of people for their process competence.

4.3 Infrastructure

Interestingly, this is not a requirement in ISO 14001:2015. Infrastructure has been covered in many SSS systems and 4.3 now includes the calibration and data back-up activities that used to exist as separate procedures. The infrastructure procedure includes listing buildings, lighting, machinery, computing, transport services and the other facilities needed to support the primary activities of the organisation

6.2 Evaluation of compliance

This goes beyond legal compliance and includes the evaluation against industry practices.

Strategic Safety Systems Ltd., 8 The Highgrove, Bishops Cleeve, Cheltenham, GL52 8JA, UK

Phone: 01242 679713 Mobile 077680 11667

E-Mail: info@StrategicSafety.co.uk Web site: www.StrategicSafety.co.uk