

# ISO STANDARDS & CERTIFICATION

**ISO stands for the International Organization for Standardization and is the world's largest developer of International Standards for industry and business. This Info Sheet provides a background to the ISO and the use of Standards and Certification within business.**

## ISO (International Organization for Standardization)

Established in 1947, ISO is the world's largest developer of voluntary International Standards. With 162 member countries, 3,368 technical bodies around the world and a central secretariat based in Geneva, Switzerland, ISO is industry and internationally recognised.

Some legislation refers to ISO Standards and many organisations will refer to the Standards laid down by ISO in their business operations. Many also seek to become Certified to ISO standards specific to their business operations. The short form of ISO is derived from the Greek isos, meaning equal, and underpins ISO's drive for standardisation.

## What are International Standards?

ISO has published more than 19 500 International Standards covering almost every industry, from technology to food safety and agriculture, and to health care.

International Standards give world-recognised specifications for products, services and systems to ensure that quality, safety and efficiency are maintained. ISO's Standards are instrumental in facilitating international trade as they establish a common standard between businesses.

## Standards Development and Revisions

An ISO Standard is developed by a panel of experts in a Technical Committee. Once the need for a Standard has been identified, experts meet to discuss and negotiate a draft standard. Once the draft has been developed, it is shared with ISO members for comment and voting. If consensus is reached, the draft becomes an ISO Standard, if not it goes back to the Technical Committee for further edits.

ISO Standards are technically reviewed every 10 years, with updates and releases where consensus is reached on revised drafts. There is usually a transition period, often 3 years, for an organisation to meet the revised Standard.



## 5 TIPS FOR GETTING TO KNOW MORE ABOUT ISO ...

### TIP #1

Go to [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org) and read their pages on "Standards" and "About Us"

### TIP #2

Whilst on [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org) subscribe to receive their e-Newsletter

### TIP #3

Read up on changes to the ISO management system standards and new high level structure

### TIP #4

Review the use of ISO Standards in your business or organisation

### TIP #5

Purchase copies of Standard's relevant to your organisation

## ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and ISO/DIS 45001

In 2015/16 updated ISO 9001 (Quality) and 14001 (Environment) and the new ISO/DIS 45001 (WHS) were released. These ISO Standards follow a consistent 'high level structure' with a focus on leadership, context of the organisation, risk and opportunity management, change management and continuous improvement.

### Using ISO Standards

There are a number of reasons why a business or organisation may refer to or use an ISO Standard, including:

- Self-assessment and benchmark against the Standard
- Develop systems to meet the requirements of a Standard
- Gain certification that is industry and internationally recognised (and to display the ISO Certificate and logo)

The requirement to demonstrate compliance with or certification to an ISO Standard is becoming increasingly common for businesses and organisations as part of general service and product provision, for tendering for contracts and to be an approved or preferred supplier.

### Certification

Certification to an ISO Standard involves demonstrating that a product or service, or a way of working, meets the relevant Standard. For some industries, Certification to a Standard is a legal or contractual requirement.

ISO do not perform or get involved in Certification, which is performed by external Certification Bodies. ISO has a Committee on Conformity Assessment (CASCO) and has produced a number of Standards related to the certification process.

When choosing a Certification Body it is beneficial to evaluate several bodies, check they use the relevant CASCO Standard and if they are accredited to perform the audits and award certification.

### Useful Links

#### International Organization for Standardization

- [ISO Standards](#)
- [About ISO](#)
- [ISO Certification](#)
- [ISO's CASCO Standards](#)
- [ISO Store](#)

5 THINGS I'LL DO TO KEEP UP TO DATE WITH ISO STANDARDS:

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_

### SUPPORT FROM KITNEY

#### Consultancy Services:

Health and safety, quality and environmental services delivered by professionals: [www.kitney.com](http://www.kitney.com)

- General consultancy
- Manuals & systems
- Audits & reviews
- Events & training

#### Kitney Toolkit:

Health and safety, quality and environmental resources: [www.toolkit.kitney.com](http://www.toolkit.kitney.com)

- Manuals & systems
- Toolkits
- Individual documents

Free to access Info Centre: [www.toolkit.kitney.com/info-centre](http://www.toolkit.kitney.com/info-centre)

- Info sheets
- Online self-assessments
- Videos

This document is provided for users in Australia who are working under the harmonised Work Health and Safety legislation. We aim to provide content that is correct but make no representations about its suitability, timeliness, completeness and accuracy, or that of anything contained on any linked web-site. We accept no liability for any loss, damage or consequence resulting directly or indirectly from the use of any content provided. The content is provided "as is" without any expressed or implied warranty. To the extent that liability cannot be completely excluded, by accessing this content you agree that your remedy is limited to the amount of money that you paid to us for the content, even if that amount was zero. This document is not professional advice, should you require professional advice please contact us regarding the provision of consultancy services. Links to websites are inserted for your convenience and do not constitute endorsement of material on those sites, or of any associated organisations, products or services. You use links at your own risk.

Published by Kitney Occupational Health & Safety Pty Ltd.