



VMVOGmbH
Senior Expert Consultancy

Certification preparation services

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Certification & Standardization

In general standardization has a major positive impact to most aspects of our life - though very often, that impact is not directly noticeable. We tend to notice the absence of standardization more rapidly than its presence. For example, consumers rapidly notice when the equipment they bought is of poor quality, unreliable, incompatible, or downright dangerous. Comparable to a piece of equipment, organizations are rated higher by their clients when their services are the result of processes that have been standardized, and result in a high quality, reliable, and safe service.

While focusing on customer satisfaction, standardization also aims to raise an organization's level of quality, reliability, compatibility, and safety internally.

On an (inter) governmental level, standardization provides a basis for standards in safety, health, and environmental legislation.

Besides streamlining processes according to efficient and responsible management practices, there are many more business benefits to standardization and certification, please read on!

[->an EMS provides a solid base for effective environmental policies, plans, and actions.<-](#)

Two important forms of standardization: QMS & EMS

Quality Management System (QMS)

QMS's are concerned with providing an organization with a framework that allows it to focus on customer satisfaction. An effective QMS allows an organization to consistently meet and exceed customer and regulatory

requirements, and to continually improve its performance in these areas. QMS entail good management practices that:

- Meet customer's quality requirements
- Meet regulatory requirements
- Enhance customer satisfaction
- Achieve continual performance improvement in pursuit of these objectives

QMS Benefits

The main benefits of an effective QMS are:

- Improved customer loyalty and repeat sales
- Reducing miscommunication within an organization
- Motivating employees, ensuring pro-activeness
- Lower costs through effective use of resources
- Increased reactivity to opportunities

Environmental Management System (EMS)

The main aim of an EMS is to enable an organization to diminish the harmful effects its activities have on the environment, and to improve its environmental performance on a continual basis. By setting a framework for a structured approach, and setting measurable environmental objectives, an EMS provides a solid base for effective environmental policies, plans, and actions that can be monitored.

EMS's are designed in a way that the requirements they set out are the same for any type of organization, whether public, private, large or small. The universal approach established a platform that thus allows a common framework of communication to be established regarding environmental management issues. Universal communication can be established between, organizations, customers, regulators, stake/shareholders and the public.

Solely complying with environmental legislation and regulations is not a pro-active strategy; by implementing an EMS an organization has a framework for continuous environmental performance improvement.

EMS benefits

The main benefits of an effective EMS are:

- Reduced cost of waste management
- Savings in consumption of energy and materials
- Lower distribution costs
- Improved corporate image among regulators, customers and the public
- Framework for continuous improvement of your organization's environmental performance

VMVO Senior Experts

What exactly are senior experts? Senior experts are high skilled professionals who have at least 20 years of experience in their field, and are now making their knowledge and skills available for other businesses and professional organizations. As opposed to younger less experienced consultants, senior experts can afford to offer unbiased, honest, matter-of-fact assessments to the benefit of organizations.

Benefits of senior experts in certification

Are you preparing for certification but require an experienced expert to cast a critical eye on the preparation process? Knowledgeable experts who have past experience across many branches of business are more likely to spot problem areas during the certification process than experts who only have functioning knowledge of certification. Bridging the gap between understanding

certification requirements and technical requirements; experts are able to translate the certification requirements into the 'language' of your field.

Next to being established names in their field, our senior experts have years of hands-on practical experience in implementing changes required for different types of certification. Also, senior experts have witnessed first hand how certification requirements have evolved over the years. They know how to adapt to these changing requirements, and are well versed in the technical jargon surrounding certification in your business.

Our experts have up-to-date information regarding current developments, directives, and trends in the business, scientific, and medical sectors.

VMVO's areas of certification preparation

Perhaps in no other area of business are a good QMS and EMS as essential as in the hospital and pharmacy sector, after all people's health and lives are frequently at stake. Because of this importance, there is a clear benefit of engaging someone who has more experience than the average consultant.

For example, responsible and efficient waste management is a crucial component in the ISO 14001 EMS in a hospital setting. Having experience, and knowing how to handle hazardous hospital materials such as cytostatics, chemicals, biological & radiological waste material is of utmost importance. Improperly managed, stored, and disposed waste has the potential to harm the environment, personnel, and in this case, patients. Our experts have the qualifications, and experience to improve waste management systems in hospitals, and other areas of business where QMS and EMS are of utmost importance.

Because VMVO offers a wide range of experts that have assisted organizations in obtaining certification, we can provide preparation management or guidance to:

- Hospitals
- (Hospital) Pharmacies
- Medical practices
- Research & Development facilities (labs)
- Waste recycling facilities (chemical waste, waste water treatment plants)
- Nuclear facilities

VMVO & EMS: ISO 14001

ISO14001 explained

ISO 14001 is an environmental management system (EMS) that allows an organization to manage the environmental impact of its actions during product manufacture or service delivery. Furthermore, the ISO 14001 EMS allows for the continual improvement of an organization's environmental impact.

The ISO 14001 EMS can be used internally to provide management the assurance that the organization is controlling the environmental impact its activities has. Studies have also shown that employees are happier working for an organization that is environmentally responsible.

The ISO 14001 EMS is a tool that can also provide external assurance that an organization is in control of the effects its processes have on the environment. Due to today's general environmental awareness, assurance may need to be provided to:

- Customers
- Shareholders and partners
- Government and local authorities
- Regulatory bodies

By displaying the ISO 14001 certification logo, an organization makes a statement that it is acting in an environmentally responsible way, the logo is an effective marketing tool in today's environmentally aware society.

ISO 14001 conformity allows an organization to make a substantiated claim about its environmental actions and policies. It can be used as a declaration of conformity for customers, suppliers, stakeholders, and the public.

Business benefits of ISO 14001

Any organization will try to avoid fines for infringing on environmental legislation. But better organizations are aware that doing only just enough to keep out of trouble with government inspectors is a rather weak and reactive approach to business in today's increasingly environmentconscious world.

The ISO 14001 standards are practical tools for the organization that understands that implementing a strategic approach to environmental management can bring return on investment (ROI) in environment-related measures.

Allowing an organization to comply with environmental legislation is just the minimal ISO 14001 does. The ISO 140001 EMS obliges an organization to focus and scrutinize all areas where it has an environmental impact; it leads to business benefits, such as:

- Waste management cost reduction
- Reduced consumption of disposables
- Improved image to clients, shareholders, partners and authorities
- Reduced consumption of energy and resources

VMVO & QMS: ISO 9001:2000

ISO 9001:2000 explained

The ISO 9001:2000 presents the latest in requirements (as opposed to the guidelines 9000:2000 & 9004:2000) set out by the ISO 9000 family of quality management system (QMS) tools. ISO 9001:2000 is designed to help organizations achieve total customer satisfaction, regardless of what the organization does, its size, or if it is in private or public sector.

The focus is on identifying and understanding customer requirements and then meeting or exceeding them by using standardized good management practices based on international consensus. ISO 9000 standardized companies can deliver products and/or services that:

- Meet customer's quality requirements
- Meet regulatory requirements
- Enhance customer satisfaction
- Achieve continual performance improvement in pursuit of these objectives

Why ISO 9000?

Organizations thank their existence to their customers. In order to survive and thrive, an organization must deliver goods or services that satisfy their customers, and meets their demands. The ISO 9000 QMS is a tried and proven framework that takes a methodical approach to managing business processes so that they consistently result in products or services that meet or exceed customer expectations.

[->>independent assessments provide credible proof of conformity to clients, suppliers, stakeholders, and the public.<<](#)

How does the ISO QMS work?

Quality system requirements might have been standardized, but most organizations like to believe that they are unique, how can the ISO 9000 QMS apply to them?

ISO 9000 dictates the requirements your quality system must meet, but not how it should be met in your organization, this approach leaves flexibility for implementation in different areas of business.

Benefits of independent assessments

Independent assessments provided by a quality system certification body has proven to be an extremely popular business practice. Independent assessments provide credible proof of conformity to clients, suppliers, stakeholders, and the public. Independent verification may permit an organization to avoid or reduce the frequency of quality management audits, it can also serve as a reference to potential clients who might not be able to verify an organization's QMS due to time or distance constraints.

VMVO & EMS: EMAS II

EMAS II explained

The European Union, operates an environmental action program that has the aim of improving the environment in the member states and support sustainable development, biodiversity, and promotes environmental responsibility across the EU.

As part of the program to focus on promoting environmental responsibility and improvement in industrial/manufacturing sectors, the EU developed the Eco- Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) Regulation. The Regulation is binding for member states but voluntary for industry/manufacturing organizations.

The key points of EMAS are:

- Neutral party verification
- Compliance with legal requirements
- Managing environmental impacts
- Improving environmental performance
- Provision of information to the public

Similarities and differences with ISO 14001

Though EMAS II has many similarities with (one of the goals is to develop and implement a system that is conform to annex I, ISO 14001), and shares many benefits of ISO 14001, there are some crucial differences. Requiring an organization to provide the public with information regarding its environmental impact is one of the main differences between EMAS and ISO. Also the organization's entire EMS must be reviewed at least once every 3 years, this is not the case with ISO 14001.

	ISO 14001	EMAS II
Validity	Worldwide	EU
Scope	Organization focused All areas of business	Site focused Production sites and service deliverers
Goals	Avoiding environmental pollution, continuous improvement of the environmental management system	Continuous environmental performance
Compliance	Aims at compliance, inspection not required	Expressly required
Internal Audits	No specified frequency	At least once per 3 years
Publication	None required	Environmental policy Environmental statement

differences between ISO 14001 & EMAS II

Conclusion

By offering a diverse portfolio of senior experts, VMVO is able to assist organizations in almost all fields of business. Our experts' in depth knowledge and insight guarantees a problem focused approach to consultancy.

The term 'consultant' is widely used but not always as it should be; namely, related to experience and insight. VMVO is a company that strives to spearhead a new movement in consultancy, returning consultancy to its roots. The movement comprises of focusing on a group of people who can be labeled 'true consultants'; senior experts. A consultant can only cast a critical eye on organizational performance if s/he has the necessary experience and in depth knowledge of the processes that determine it.

The aim of our senior experts is to determine your organization's actual QMS & EMS performance, and help design a framework necessary to achieve sustainable

success. Senior experts are consultants ideally suitable to translate certification requirements into the technical requirements of your field.

>>the years teach much which the days never know.<<

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