Important Update for ISO Certification

As an ISO Certified customer of Acquire Management Systems I am informing you of a recent ISO amendment that has taken place affecting most ISO Standards.

As this amendment affects ISO 9001, ISO 45001 and ISO 14001 of which you may be certified to it is important you are aware of the change and how to implement it.

ISO have included two clause amendments relating to the consideration of Climate Change. It may be that climate change is not a relevant consideration for you and your business, however you need to show that you have taken this into account. If you feel it is not a concern relating to your processes, products then you need to confirm that you have decided this within your manual or procedures for clause 4.1.

However if you feel that climate change will have an affect on your management system it must be documented (at the end of this guide I have listed the areas to consider the change be logged/noted).

See their announcement below –

As part of ISO's commitment to action on climate change, approved unanimously by all ISO Member Bodies in the so-called London Declaration, (https://www.iso.org/ClimateAction.html), amendments to over 30 of ISO's Management System Standards, have now been issued to include climate change considerations, as follows:

4.1 Understanding the organization and its context.
The organization shall determine external and internal issues that are relevant to its purpose and that affect its ability to achieve the intended result(s) of its quality management system.
Added: The organization shall determine whether climate change is a relevant issue.

4.2 Understanding the needs and expectations of interested parties.
The organization shall determine:
• the interested parties that are relevant to the quality management system.
• the relevant requirements of these interested parties.
• which of these requirements will be addressed through the quality management system.
Added: NOTE: Relevant interested parties can have requirements related to climate change

Guidelines on how to consider the changes -

4.1 The organization shall determine whether climate change is a relevant issue. (examples)

- Changes in statutory or regulatory requirements such as restriction on the use of certain materials, product circularity, product life cycle, product origin, claims, etc.
- Use of bio-based, renewable materials.
- Potential impacts on the products and services or on the QMS processes, by changes determined in other management system disciplines, e.g. need to reduce energy consumption, reduce waste, reuse or recycle materials.

- Extended lifetime of products, post-delivery services and assistance
- Requirements to move to carbon neutral products and services.
- Issues impacting the processes and infrastructure, due to energy and other considerations.
- Vulnerability of the organization to deliver its products and services due to more frequency of storms, waterflows, fires, drought, that may imply shortages in the supply or difficulties in distribution.
- Concerns related to overall knowledge and control of the supply chain in issues related to climate change.
- Market trends on sustainability of products and services and related information and claims
- Competing products and services with potential better performance in climate change related issues.

4.2 Has the organization determined the existence of applicable requirements related to climate change from relevant interested parties? (examples)

- Statutory and regulatory, environmental or climate change requirements for the product or service provided, and those that affect the organization's ability to provide that product or service.
- Customer requirements regarding climate change, zero discharge, or carbon neutrality of the products.
- Parent company policies and strategies.
- Requirements related to product information on aspects related to climate change (sustainability of the origin, reuse, recyclability, end of life, embedded carbon, "greenwashing labelling" etc.), including product claims and associated existing legal, statutory, and other requirements.
- Industry codes and standards changes related to climate change.
- Environmental agreements with community groups or non-governmental organizations.
- Permits, licenses, or other forms of environmental authorization.
- Climate change related requirements on processes such as packaging, manufacturing, servicing, logistics, among others.

So, what does this mean for your company?

First of all, you need to decide if climate change is a relevant issue to your business. It may not have a direct impact on your product or service but you need to take into consideration external factors that will. Please note if it is relevant to you it will need to be updated throughout the system including Clause 6, Clause 8 (product supply, delivery, etc).

So, how do you update your current processes to meet these criteria?

Changes that may need to be made are
- Update your interested parties to include external party (relevant to your consideration)
- Update your regulatory checklist/register to show an acknowledgement of the amendment. (I have provided you with a copy)
- Update your manual Sections 4.1 and 4.2 to detail that you have considered climate change and if it is deemed as relevant.
- It may require a change to any supplier procedures you have if you have said it will affect you.
- If you create or manufacture product's, do you have to consider lifecycle.
- Change to resources, people, infrastructure.
- It may be something to add to your next management review meeting
- It could change your policies.

These changes should be made with immediate effect.

Please note some certification bodies are already handing out OFI's (Opportunities for Improvements) during auditing for not showing these considerations. So, whilst they are not NCR's they will need updating before your next audit.

Should you have any questions or concerns of how this will be included in your existing system please contact me at ndacquire@outlook.com

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