accreditation

ISO 9000 and 14000 Registration

Organizations of all sizes and in all industries are being registered to the international ISO 9000 quality management systems (QMS) and ISO 14000 environmental management systems (EMS) standards.

They know that registration—the formal assessment of an organization's EMS or QMS by an independent third party—can have benefits such as:
- improving the bottom line;
- opening doors to new markets at home and abroad;
- enhancing customer satisfaction; and
  - reducing risk and liability exposure.

(Registration is also called certification in some countries, where registration organizations may be known as certification bodies or registrars.)

Registration is a valuable link to some of the most respected standards institutions, documents and management systems experts in the world. One of the world's foremost standardization bodies, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), is at the top of this list. ISO 9000 was developed by ISO Technical Committee (TC) 176 and ISO 14000 was developed by ISO TC 207. Registration allows you to indirectly make the numerous experts on these committees part of your management systems team.

You also draw on Canadian expertise through registration. Almost 170 experts help us—the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) and Canadian member body of ISO—shape these standards to meet Canadian needs. In addition, (we manage) the international secretariats for TC 207 and TC 176.

Working with a registration body that is accredited by SCC, enhances the recognition and credibility of your registration to ISO 9000 or ISO 14000. Our role as overseer of Canada's world-renowned National Standards System (NSS) and participation in arrangements fostering mutual recognition of registrations around the world are good news for your registration.

Choosing a registration body

While we cannot recommend specific registration bodies, we offer these points to keep in mind when you are looking for one.
- Be sure to find a registration body that is accredited for your organization's scope and sector. This information is posted on our web site listing for registration bodies using standard nomenclature des activités économiques (NACE) industrial codes and descriptions. Registration bodies that are qualified to conduct registrations for sector-specific applications, such as QS 9000 for the automotive industry and the CAN/CSA-809 Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) standard, are also clearly identified in the listings.
- Consult the listings of SCC-accredited EMS and QMS registration bodies on our web site at **www.scc.ca**.

Standards Council of Canada
Conseil canadien des normes

Web site: **http://www.scc.ca**
E-mail: **info@scc.ca**
Tel: **+ 1 613 238 3222**
Fax: **+ 1 613 569 7808**

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About the standards
The ISO 9000 and ISO 14000 series were designed to create generic management systems that could be applied by organizations of any size, in any industry. Like the rest of the standards in the series, the registration standards, *ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 are voluntary, consensus documents. ISO 9001, Quality management systems – requirements and ISO 14001, Environmental management systems – specifications with guidance for use* share features including:
• administrative elements that must be in place for an organization to effectively manage its quality system or impact on the environment; and
• assessment and control tools, rather than prescriptive performance targets.

Other ISO 9000 standards deal with subjects such as auditing, fundamentals and vocabulary and performance improvements. Other ISO 14000 standards address subjects such as auditing, labels and declarations, performance evaluation and life cycle assessment. In addition, ISO is developing a joint auditing standard for use with both ISO 9000 and ISO 14000 management systems. The final version of this document, ISO 19011, *Guidelines for quality and/or environmental management systems auditing*, is expected to be published in 2002.

New edition of ISO 9000
ISO 9001:2000, Quality Management Systems, published as part of the latest edition of the series in December 2000, is now the standard to which organizations register. In the previous 1994 edition, organizations registered to ISO 9001, 9002 or 9003. The requirements in these three standards have been integrated into ISO 9001:2000.

Users who want to register a new or existing QMS will have until December 2003 to bring their system in line with the new standards. To verify registration bodies' effective implementation of ISO 9001:2000, auditors are:
• examining transition plans, auditor qualifications and training records at each audit; and
• witnessing an ISO 9001:2000 registration at some point in 2001.

SCC will monitor the transition of registration bodies to the new standard until the transition period ends in 2003.

Major changes in the 2000 edition of the series include more focus on continual improvement, new process-based structure, strengthened customer orientation and more compatibility with ISO 14001.

Visit the ISO 9000:2000 section of our web site at www.scc.ca/iso9000/2000/2k_index_e.html for the latest news.

*For more information about any aspect of registration, visit our web site at **www.scc.ca**.*

Who are we?
As the national member body to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) oversees Canada's National Standards System (NSS). With close to 400 partner and client organizations, and 15,000 volunteer participants, our NSS is a model for the world.