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**Quality management — Guidelines for  
quality plans**

*Management de la qualité — Lignes directrices pour les plans qualité*



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# Contents

Page

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| <b>Foreword</b> .....  | <b>v</b>   |
| <b>Introduction</b> .....  | <b>vii</b> |
| <b>1 Scope</b> .....   | <b>1</b>   |
| <b>2 Normative references</b> .....  | <b>1</b>   |
| <b>3 Terms and definitions</b> .....   | <b>1</b>   |
| <b>4 Using a quality plan</b> .....  | <b>2</b>   |
| 4.1 Introduction.....  | 2          |
| 4.2 Requesting external provider quality plans.....  | 2          |
| 4.3 Managing external provider quality plans.....  | 3          |
| <b>5 Development of a quality plan</b> .....   | <b>4</b>   |
| 5.1 Context of the quality plan.....   | 4          |
| 5.2 Inputs to the quality plan.....  | 4          |
| 5.3 Defining the scope of the quality plan.....  | 5          |
| 5.4 Preparation of the quality plan.....   | 5          |
| 5.4.1 Initiation.....  | 5          |
| 5.4.2 Defining the quality plan.....   | 5          |
| 5.4.3 Consistency and compatibility.....   | 5          |
| 5.4.4 Presentation and structure.....  | 6          |
| <b>6 Content of the quality plan</b> .....   | <b>6</b>   |
| 6.1 General.....   | 6          |
| 6.2 Scope of the quality plan.....   | 6          |
| 6.3 Quality plan inputs.....   | 6          |
| 6.4 Quality objectives.....  | 7          |
| 6.5 Quality plan responsibilities.....   | 7          |
| 6.6 Control of documented information.....   | 7          |
| 6.7 Resources.....   | 8          |
| 6.7.1 Provision of resources.....  | 8          |
| 6.7.2 Materials, products and services.....  | 8          |
| 6.7.3 People.....  | 8          |
| 6.7.4 Infrastructure and environment for the operation of processes.....                             | 8          |
| 6.7.5 Monitoring and measuring resources.....  | 8          |
| 6.8 Customers and other interested parties communication.....  | 9          |
| 6.9 Design and development.....  | 9          |
| 6.9.1 Design and development process.....  | 9          |
| 6.9.2 Control of design and development changes.....   | 9          |
| 6.10 Externally provided processes, products and services.....                                       | 10         |
| 6.11 Production and service provision.....   | 10         |
| 6.12 Identification and traceability.....  | 11         |
| 6.13 Property belonging to customers or external providers.....                                      | 11         |
| 6.14 Preservation of outputs.....  | 11         |
| 6.15 Control of nonconforming outputs.....   | 12         |
| 6.16 Monitoring and measurement.....   | 12         |
| 6.17 Audits.....   | 12         |
| <b>7 Operation and control of the quality plan</b> .....   | <b>13</b>  |
| 7.1 Review and acceptance of the quality plan.....   | 13         |
| 7.2 Implementation and monitoring of the quality plan.....   | 13         |
| 7.3 Revision of the quality plan.....  | 14         |
| 7.4 Feedback and improvement.....  | 14         |
| <b>Annex A (informative) Examples of formats for quality plans</b> .....                             | <b>15</b>  |
| <b>Annex B (informative) Schematic representation of a process approach applied to quality plans</b> | <b>22</b>  |

## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 176, *Quality management and quality assurance*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Quality systems*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 10005:2005), which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared with the previous edition are as follows.

- a) It applies the terminology from ISO 9000:2015, which includes changes to key definitions, such as:
  - 1) for the definition of "quality plan" (see 3.2), which has been modified to replace the phrase "procedures and associated resources to be applied when and by whom" by "actions, responsibilities and associated resources";
  - 2) for the definition of "specific case" (see 3.3), which has been modified to make reference to "service", as ISO 9001:2015 now refers to "products and services" and no longer just to "products";
  - 3) the replacement of the terms "documentation" and "record" by the term "documented information", which is generally used in ISO management system standards to include both "procedures" and "records" which are not necessarily distinct from each other in a digital environment (documented information needed to support process operation is "maintained", which means that it is established and updated as required; documented information that provides evidence of conformity with requirements is "retained" which means that it is protected from unintended alterations).



**Table 1 — Major changes to terms in this document since its previous edition**

| ISO 10005:2005  | This document  |
|---|--|
| Products  | Products and services                                |
| Documentation<br>Quality manual<br>Documented procedures<br>Records | Documented information                               |
| Purchased product   | Externally provided processes, products and services |
| Supplier  | External provider                                    |
| Monitoring and measuring equipment                                  | Monitoring and measuring resources                   |

- b) It is aligned to ISO 9001:2015, leading to:
- 1) a significant revision in the clause/subclause sequence, titles and the addition of new material, e.g. the inclusion of “[5.2](#) Context of a quality plan”, or the extension of [7.2](#) to also reference the monitoring of a quality plan;
  - 2) the incorporation of “risk-based thinking”.
- c) A new clause ([Clause 4](#)) on using a quality plan.

# Introduction

## 0.1 General

This document was prepared to address the need for guidance on quality plans, either in the context of an established quality management system or as an independent management activity. In either case, quality plans provide a means of relating specific requirements of the process, product, service, project or contract to work methods and practices. Quality plans are most effective when they are compatible with other associated plans. The guidance in this document can also be used where quality plans are integrated with other management plans or quality management systems.

Benefits of establishing a quality plan include increased confidence that requirements will be met, greater assurance that processes are in control and the motivation it can give to those involved. It might also give insight into opportunities for innovation and improvement.

The guidance on quality plans in this document is based on the quality management principles described in ISO 9000 and the concepts used in ISO 9001 for the establishment of quality management systems. [Clause 6](#), which describes the typical contents of a quality plan, includes guidance to applying relevant ISO 9001 requirements. The guidance is limited to quality plans and does not replace guidance given in ISO 9000 on quality management concepts or ISO/TS 9002 on the application of ISO 9001 requirements within an organization.

This document does not replace the guidance given in industry-specific documented information. Where quality plans are required for project applications, the guidance provided in this document is intended to be complementary to the guidance provided in ISO 10006. Some terms used in this document have been changed with respect to its previous edition to improve alignment with ISO 9001:2015 and other management system standards. There is no need for the terms used by an organization, whether in specifying quality plan requirements or developing a quality plan, to be replaced by the terms used in this document.

In this document, the following verbal forms are used:

- “should” indicates a recommendation;
- “may” indicates a permission;
- “can” indicates a possibility or a capability.

Information marked as “NOTE” is for guidance in understanding or clarifying the associated text.

NOTE See <https://committee.iso.org/home/tc176sc2> for guidance on the topics in this Introduction.

## 0.2 Using this document

This Introduction explains some underlying concepts and changes to terms used in the previous edition of this document.

[Clauses 1 to 3](#) provide basic information (Scope, Normative references, and Terms and definitions).

[Clause 4](#) summarizes how quality plans can be used.

[Clause 5](#) describes the process of developing a quality plan.

[Clause 6](#) describes the typical contents of a quality plan.

[Clause 7](#) describes the operation and control of a quality plan.

[Annex A](#) provides examples of simple quality plans.

[Annex B](#) provides a schematic representation of a process approach applied to a quality plan

[Annex C](#) provides a correlation matrix between the clauses of this document and those of ISO 9001:2015.

[Annex D](#) provides a correlation matrix between the clauses of this document and the quality management principles from ISO 9000:2015.

The Bibliography includes a list of standards and other relevant information.

### 0.3 Process approach

The process approach means the systematic management of processes and their interactions to achieve intended results. Applying the process approach to quality plans assists organizations to manage the inputs, activities and outputs of each process within a coherent system of interrelated processes.

Processes referenced in a quality plan can interact with:

- each other (interactions among quality plan processes);
- other processes operated within the organization's management system;
- processes operated within other organizations (such as customers and external providers).

When considering how to manage its processes and their interactions, the organization can address these through a quality plan whether or not it has a quality management system.

[Annex B](#) provides a schematic representation of a process approach applied to quality plans.

### 0.4 Risk-based thinking

Risk-based thinking means applying a systematic approach to considering risk (the effect of uncertainty) so that risks can be understood and managed appropriately.

The application of risk-based thinking to the development and use of a quality plan enables an organization to determine the importance of particular issues and take appropriate actions to manage both risks and opportunities.

A customer requesting that a provider prepares a quality plan can apply risk-based thinking to determine the minimum requirements for the type and extent of the monitoring activities.

When developing a quality plan, the organization can apply risk-based thinking in deciding the processes, resources and control methods to be used. Particularly where an organization uses a standard model or template for different quality plans, risk-based thinking can assist those involved to make each quality plan fit for its intended purpose.