

Information on updating requirements 4.1 and 4.2 in ISO standards.

On February 22, 2024, the IAF and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) published Climate Action amendments to ISO normative standards. With this, two notes on Climate Change were considered in items 4.1 and 4.2, which must be complied with by organizations that are in the certification process and by those that are already certified. The changes aim to reflect the commitment of the IAF and ISO to the issue of Climate Change, extending it as an important factor for the entire community.

The changes were initially introduced as amendments to these published standards. The changes (two new statements) have been incorporated into the new text of the Harmonized Framework (Appendix 2 of Annex SL in the ISO/IEC Directives Part 1 Consolidated ISO Supplement) 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 XXX 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 XXX management system.
- the relevant requirements of these interested parties.
- which of these requirements will be addressed through the XXX management system.

Added: NOTE: Relevant interested parties can have requirements related to climate change.

The expectation is that the organization will carry out its survey of internal and external issues as already known through requirement 4.1, but must specifically take into consideration the topic of Climate Change and whether these changes have relevant impacts. For requirement 4.2, the assessment of needs and expectations must also be carried out in the manner already defined by the requirement, but organizations must evaluate and determine possible requirements related to climate change. Organizations must also ensure that they have considered the aspects and risks of Climate Change in the development, maintenance and effectiveness of the management system, whether they are general themes or specific to the scope of certification or segment of activity.

When an organization operates more than one management system (e.g. Quality Management and Health and Safety Management), it must ensure that Climate Change, if considered relevant, is considered within



the scope of each management system standard. It is important to remember that Climate Change can have a different effect on each component of the management system, which can be very different between quality management systems and health and safety management systems, for example.

Changes were published to the standards on February 23, 2024, and as the general intent of the requirements remains unchanged, and with this change being treated as a clarification rather than a new requirement, it is considered that a full transition program is not necessary in this case. However, certified organizations should already be considering climate change issues that affect the context of the management system(s).

The Certification Body BGA is already ensuring that all internal and external issues have been determined by the organization to be relevant or not and, if so, considered in the development and effectiveness of the management system(s), as required by clauses 4.1 and 4.2.

Additional details can be found in the official statement:

<https://iaf.nu/en/news/iaf-and-iso-publish-joint-communique/>