Questions and answers about ISO 50003

Our experts have answered frequently asked questions on ISO 50003. Unable to find what you were looking for? **Feel free to contact us!**

1. WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT CONTENT OF ISO 50003?

ISO 50003 specifies requirements on the certification bodies regarding auditing and certification of energy management systems (EnMS). Organizations seeking or maintaining ISO 50001 certification will also be impacted directly or indirectly by this standard in a variety of ways.

The most salient points of the standard impacting organizations are:

1. The calculation requirements for the audit duration have changed. Consideration of factors such as significant energy uses (SEUs) and EnMS-effective personnel have now been included.
2. The organization will now be categorized into eight technical areas and auditors must demonstrate skills in the technical area corresponding to each organization being audited.
3. Requirements relating to the auditing processes have been modified. This means that in the future, organizations will be required to clearly demonstrate an improvement in energy performance for the EnMS to be eligible to be certified or continue certification.

2. WILL THERE BE AN INCREASE IN THE DURATION OF MY AUDIT?

As a result of changes to the calculation requirements, there may be changes to the previously determined audit duration. Whether the audit duration increases, decreases or remains the same can only be determined on a case-by-case basis and will also depend on factors such as EnMS-effective personnel and significant energy uses (SEUs).

3. WHICH AUDITS ARE AFFECTED?

To begin with, all certification and recertification audits are affected by the new requirements. The new requirements must be implemented by all certification bodies no later than October 14, 2017. For organizations that are in the surveillance phase of certification as of this effective date, ISO 50003 requirements must be applied no later than the next recertification audit.

4. WHAT ARE ENMS-EFFECTIVE PERSONNEL?

According to ISO 50003, EnMS-effective personnel are people who actively contribute to fulfilling the requirements of an EnMS. In principle, this includes all persons who have a significant influence on the EnMS, who take on responsibilities for the EnMS and others who can impact energy performance or can have a significant influence on energy consumption. Examples include senior management, the management representative, energy management team, heads of production or maintenance and other individuals responsible for significant energy uses.

5. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I DO NOT GIVE ACCURATE INFORMATION FOR ENMS-EFFECTIVE PERSONNEL OR INADVERTENTLY MAKE AN INCORRECT DECLARATION?

A part of the auditing process is to verify EnMS-effective personnel and other criteria during the audit. If significant new knowledge is gained here, the auditor may recommend that the inputs used to calculate the audit duration be immediately amended accordingly.

6. WHAT ARE SEUS?

Energy use is defined as how the energy is applied (e.g. ventilation, lighting, heating, cooling, production, etc.). Significant energy uses (SEUs) are energy uses that account for substantial energy consumption and/or have considerable potential for energy performance improvement.

7. WHEN IS AN ENERGY USER CONSIDERED TO BE SIGNIFICANT?

According to ISO 50001, the organization specifies its own significance criteria to determine which energy uses will be considered as SEUs. However, to ensure uniform application when the certification body calculates the audit duration, it is nevertheless expedient to specify a significance threshold value. As such, an energy use is only considered to be significant if it consumes at least 5% of the organization's total energy consumption.

8. MUST I ENTER EACH ENERGY USE INDIVIDUALLY?

No, you do not need to list each individual energy use. Typical equipment or processes that are comparable in type and size can be reasonably grouped together and defined as one SEU. This includes structurally identical equipment that are of a comparable type and construction year (e.g., injection molding machines).

9. TO WHAT EXTENT AM I AFFECTED BY THE TECHNICAL AREAS?

All auditors must undergo a reevaluation of their skills to be approved for the respective technical areas. This procedure is a familiar one from other standards, such as ISO 9001 and ISO 14001. Under certain circumstances, this can mean that an auditor does not fulfill the requirements for skills in the technical area relating to a particular organization. This may result in assigning another auditor who is approved for that particular technical area.

10. WHAT IS THIS IMPROVEMENT OF ENERGY PERFORMANCE ALL ABOUT?

As in previous audits, energy performance will be reviewed. According to ISO 50003 requirements, however, organizations must now clearly present data and prove energy performance has been improved at all initial certification and recertification cycles in order to be eligible for certification or continued certification.

11. HOW CAN I PROVE AN IMPROVEMENT OF ENERGY PERFORMANCE?

Annex C of ISO 50003 provides a range of approaches for this. One of these approaches would be to show that your energy consumption has decreased over time, while production rates remain at similar levels. Another example includes the upkeep of aging equipment that would have otherwise resulted in a predicted degradation of energy performance over time. By applying countermeasures such as proper operational or maintenance controls that delay or reduce the predicted performance reduction curve can demonstrate improved energy performance.

12. ARE THERE ANY AIDS THAT WILL HELP ME TO IMPLEMENT THE REQUIREMENTS OF ISO 50001?

There are various companion standards that have proven helpful in providing support to organizations developing and implementing an EnMS in accordance with ISO 50001:

- **ISO 50004:** Guidance for the implementation, maintenance and improvement of an energy management system
- **ISO 50006:** Measuring energy performance using energy baselines (EnB) and energy performance indicators (EnPI) - General principles and guidance
- **ISO 50015:** Measurement and verification of energy performance of organizations – General principles and guidance
- **ISO 50047:** Energy savings – Determination of energy savings in organizations

OUR EXPERTS WILL BE HAPPY TO ASSIST YOU WITH ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS. PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH US!

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