



## ➤ Introducing Annex SL Whitepaper

The new high level structure for all  
management system standards of the future

Approaching change

## ➤ Overview and background

Over the years ISO has published many management system standards for topics ranging from quality and environment to information security and business continuity management. Despite sharing common elements, ISO management system standards all have different structures. This, in turn, results in some confusion and difficulties at the implementation stage.

In order to understand the importance of structure in management system standards, we will take a step back and look at ISO's definition of a management system and some of the benefits of implementing an effective management system. ISO defines a management system as a set of procedures an organization needs to follow in order to meet its objectives. A management system standard provides a model to follow when setting up and operating a management system. Some of the top level benefits of a successful management system standard are:

- Enhanced use of resources
- Improved risk management
- Increased customer satisfaction by meeting product/service expectations

### Why a new high-level structure?

Most organizations have more than one management system standard to implement and certify. Doing this individually takes up a lot of extra time and resources, so there is a clear need to find a way of integrating and combining the standards in the best

possible way. The management system standards to date each presents different structures, requirements and terminology, so integration remains challenging.

In order to address this problem, ISO developed Annex SL – the framework for a generic management system and the blueprint for all new and revised management system standards going forward. To address industry specific needs, additional requirements for individual sectors will be added to this generic framework.

### How will this affect organizations?

This high level structure will be rolled out across all new and revised management system standards to ensure consistency and compatibility. With Annex SL in place, management system implementers can look forward to less conflicts, duplication, confusion and the misunderstandings that took place as a result of different management system standard structures.

Management system auditors will now use a core set of generic requirements across disciplines and industry sectors.

---

## ➤ More about Annex SL

All management system standards of the future will have the same high level structure, identical core text, as well as common terms and definitions. Whilst the high level structure cannot be changed, sub-clauses and discipline-specific text can be added.

Annex SL applies to all management system standards, such as full ISO standards, Publicly Available Specifications (PAS) and Technical Specifications (TS). The revised ISO 9001 and ISO 14001, as well as the new ISO 45001 will all be based on Annex SL's high level structure:

Clause 1:	Scope
Clause 2:	Normative references
Clause 3:	Terms and definitions
Clause 4:	Context of the organization
Clause 5:	Leadership
Clause 6:	Planning
Clause 7:	Support
Clause 8:	Operation
Clause 9:	Performance evaluation
Clause 10:	Improvement

### Clause 1: Scope

The scope sets out the intended outcomes of the management system. The outcomes are industry specific and should be aligned with the context of the organization (clause 4).

### Clause 2: Normative references

Provides details of the reference standards or publications relevant to the particular standard.

### Clause 3: Terms & definitions

Details terms and definition applicable to the specific standard in addition to any formal related terms and definitions standard.

---

# ➤ More about Annex SL

## Clause 4: Context of the organization

Clause 4 consists of four sub-clauses:

- 4.1 Understanding the organization and its context
- 4.2 Understanding the needs and expectations of interested parties
- 4.3 Determining the scope of the management system
- 4.4 The management system

As the flagstone of a management system, clause 4 determines why the organization is here. As part of the answer to this question, the organization needs to identify internal and external issues that can impact on its intended outcomes, as well as all interested parties and their requirements. It also needs to document its scope and set the boundaries of the management system – all in line with the business objectives.

## Clause 5: Leadership

Clause 5 comprises three sub-clauses:

- 5.1 Leadership and commitment
- 5.2 Policy
- 5.3 Organizational roles, responsibilities and authorities

The new high level structure places particular emphasis on leadership, not just management as set out in previous standards. This means top management now has greater accountability and involvement in the organization's management system. They need to integrate the requirements of the management system into the organization's core business process, ensure the management system achieves its intended outcomes and allocate the necessary resources. Top management is also responsible for communicating the importance of the management system and heighten employee awareness and involvement.

## Clause 6: Planning

Clause 6 includes two sub-clauses:

- 6.1 Actions to address risks and opportunities
- 6.2 Management system objectives and planning to achieve them

Clause 6 brings risk-based thinking to the front. Once the organization has highlighted risks and opportunities in clause 4, it needs to stipulate how these will be addressed through planning. The planning phase looks at what, who, how and when these risks must be addressed. This proactive approach replaces preventative action and reduces the need for corrective actions later on. Particular focus is also placed on the objectives of the management system. These should be measurable, monitored, communicated, aligned to the policy of the management system and updated when needed.

## Clause 7: Support

Clause 7 consists of five sub-clauses:

- 7.1 Resources
- 7.2 Competence
- 7.3 Awareness
- 7.4 Communication
- 7.5 Documented information

After addressing the context, commitment and planning, organizations will have to look at the support needed to meet their goals and objectives. This includes resources, targeted internal and external communications, as well as documented information that replaces previously used terms such as documents, documentation and records.

## Clause 8: Operation

Clause 8 has one sub-clause:

- 8.1 Operational planning and control

The bulk of the management system requirements lies within this single clause. Clause 8 addresses both in-house and outsourced processes, while the overall process management includes adequate criteria to control these processes, as well as ways to manage planned and unintended change.

## Clause 9: Performance evaluation

Clause 9 is formed of three sub-clauses:

- 9.1 Monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation
- 9.2 Internal audit
- 9.3 Management review

Here organizations need to determine what, how and when things are to be monitored, measured, analysed and evaluated. An internal audit is also part of this process to ensure the management system conforms to the requirements of the organization as well as the standard, and is successfully implemented and maintained. The final step, management review, looks at whether the management system is suitable, adequate and effective.

## Clause 10: Improvement

With two sub-clauses in place, Clause 10 looks at how non-conformities and corrective actions should be managed:

- 10.1 Non-conformity and corrective action
- 10.2 Continual improvement

In an ever-changing business world, not everything always goes according to plan. Clause 10 looks at ways to address non-conformities and corrective action, as well as strategies for improvement on a continual basis.

.....core text, common terms and definitions to aid integration.....

# ➤ 5 Key Steps for a Successful Transition

Don't delay – start working on your transition today

- 1 Talk to your BSI Client Manager**
  - Discuss your challenges and timelines
  - Review the latest videos and whitepapers on the BSI website for background information
- 2 Attend a BSI Training Course**
  - Understand the new requirements faster and in greater detail by attending our training courses; from introduction through to deep dive modules which explain the new areas in greater depth.
- 3 Communicate with your organization**
  - Talk to your leadership team about the new requirements
  - Communicate the revision to your wider organization to gain buy in
  - Send regular updates on progress
- 4 Set up an Internal Project Team**
  - Download BSI's transition toolkit which will guide you through the transition
  - Conduct a GAP analysis against your current system
  - Create an implementation plan and monitor progress
  - Take a fresh look at your QMS/EMS-
  - Implement the new requirements on leadership, risk and context of the organization
  - Change your documentation to reflect the new structure
- 5 Gap Analysis/Transition Assessment**
  - BSI can conduct a GAP analysis to help you identify any weaknesses prior to formal assessment
  - Consider an early assessment against the FDIS
  - Transition assessments to the new standard will be available once it has been published.

>> Training ISO 9001

>> Training ISO 14001

## ➤ Transition Timelines

