ISO 9001:2018 for auditing management system standards (MSS) released
by Murray Gonzalez

The ISO 19011:2018 *Guidelines for auditing management systems*, the latest revision to this auditing standard, is now available. The standard provides guidance on auditing management systems including the principles of auditing, managing an audit program, conducting management system audits, as well as guidance on the evaluation of competence of individuals involved in the audit process and audit teams.

Organizations see how MSS can be applied to achieve their objectives. Management systems help organizations achieve their objectives. Auditing them makes good business sense. The updated auditing MSS gives more guidance than ever before. To get the most from an MSS and to ensure continual improvement, regular auditing is absolutely needed. For many organizations with several MSS in place, this may not be so easily achieved.

ISO 19011:2018, *Guidelines for auditing management systems*, however, offers a uniform, harmonized approach, enabling effective auditing across multiple systems.

But why was the standard revised? Denise Robitaille, Chair of the ISO project committee that updated the standard[1] said it was needed to ensure its effective guidance to address changes in the marketplace, evolving technologies, and the many new management system standards recently published or revised.

"Other key changes in the 2018 version include the addition of a risk-based approach to the principles of auditing to reflect the enhanced focus on risk in both management standards and in the marketplace," she said.

"There are tips on auditing risks and opportunities as well as information on applying risk-based thinking to the audit process."

"In addition, guidance has been expanded in a number of areas such as managing an audit program and conducting an audit."[2]

An outstanding article about the new ISO 19011 with a tennis analogy was written by our esteemed colleague Lance B. Coleman, Sr. The article appears in the July 2018 issue of ASQ Quality Progress, Standards Issues column, page 44.

1. ISO 19011 was developed by ISO project committee ISO/PC 302, *Guidelines for auditing management systems*, whose secretariat is held by ANSI, ISO's member for the USA.

2. Auditing standard for management system standards now updated, Clare Naden, ISO.org, ISO News, July 3, 2018

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