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|                                      | Australian Standard®<br>New Zealand Standard  |          |
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|                                      | (ISO Title: Quality management and quality system elements—<br>Guidelines)                    |          |
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### AS 3904.1-1987/NZS 9004.1:1990/ISO 9004:1987

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The following organizations are represented on the Committees responsible for this Standard:

### Standards Association of New Zealand Committee 56/1, Quality Assurance/ Management Standards

Cadform Manufacturing Services Limited Department of Scientific and Industrial Research—Auckland Industrial Development Division

International Quality Consultants Limited Massey University Ministry of Works and Development New Zealand Dairy Board Standards Association of New Zealand Testing Laboratory Registration Council of New Zealand The Gallagher Group U.E.B. Packaging Limited

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To keep abreast of progress in industry, Australian and New Zealand Standards are subject to periodic review and are kept up to date by the issue of amendments or new editions as necessary. It is important therefore that Standards users ensure that they are in possession of the latest edition, and any amendments thereto.

Full details of all publications of the Standards Association of New Zealand and Standards Australia will be found in the Catalogue of Publications of the respective organization; this information is supplemented in their monthly magazines, which subscribing members receive, and which give details of new publications, new editions and amendments, and of withdrawn Standards.

Suggestions for improvements to Australian and New Zealand Standards, addressed to the head office of the relevant organizations are welcomed. Notification of any inaccuracy or ambiguity found in either an Australian or New Zealand Standard should be made without delay in order that the matter may be investigated and appropriate action taken.

## AS 3904.1—1987 NZS 9004.1:1990 ISO 9004:1990

# Australian Standard<sup>®</sup> New Zealand Standard

# Quality management and quality system elements—Guidelines

(ISO Title: Quality management and quality system elements— Guidelines)

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### AS 3904.1-1987 PREFACE

This Standard is identical with ISO 9004—1987, Quality management and quality system elements—Guidelines, published by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). It has been adopted under the direction of the Quality and Reliability Standards Committee.

The Australian Committee provided input to the International Committee ISO/TC 176 in the preparation of ISO 9000 to ISO 9004 and following a review of the final Standards it was decided that these should be endorsed in the interests of international harmonization and trade and issued nationally using a dual-number Australian Standard/ISO Standard reference.

This Standard provides guidance on the basic elements which make up a quality system and discusses means of ensuring their effectiveness.

The text of the International Standard has been approved for publication as an Australian Standard without deviation. However, where the words 'International Standard' appear in this Standard, they should be read as 'Australian Standard'.

### NZS 9004.1:1990 FOREWORD

These Standards have been prepared by the Standards Association of New Zealand at the request of the New Zealand Organisation for Quality Assurance which considered there was a need to provide clear guidance on Quality Assurance/Management Standards and a basis for training in New Zealand.

The Standards, previously numbered in the NZS 5600 series have been renumbered without change to the technical content and are identical in all respects to the ISO 9000-4 series, hence the dual numbering system.

There are three quality assurance levels defined in the Standards. Each level in the series is less comprehensive than the one above it. The cross-reference list of quality system Standards given in the Annex of NZS 9000 (ISO 9000) shows the decreasing requirements by clause. The list will assist when cross-referencing or upgrading from one Standard to another.

When contractually required to produce a product or provide a service to one of the Standards, suppliers should consider the benefits to them of implementing the applicable additional requirements of the higher levels.

The objectives of these Standards are:

(a) To provide a customer with the assurance that a quality product or service will be supplied.

(b) To give the supplier the minimum guidelines to allow the development of an appropriate quality management system which can demonstrate product or service Quality Assurance to the customers.

The selection of any one Standard does not change the contractual requirements to produce a product or provide a service of the required quality. Specifying a more comprehensive Standard does, in general, provide the customer and the supplier with greater assurance, supported by documentary evidence, that the quality requirements will be met providing that the quality assurance system is implemented and is effective.

For selecting and implementing the most appropriate Standard, the use of NZS 9000 (ISO 9000) Quality Systems—Guide to selection and use and NZS 9004.1 (ISO 9004) Quality management and quality system elements—Guidelines is recommended. These guidelines provide explanations and suggest means for satisfying the requirements of the Standard.

For some products or services, specifying a more comprehensive Standard may not lead to a higher degree of assurance. Selection of the appropriate Standard should be made by considering the parameters that are inherent in the product or service.

It should be noted that the quality system of an organization is influenced by the objectives of the organization, by the product or service and by the practices specific to the organization, and, therefore, the quality system varies from one organization to another and must suit that organization's operation.

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