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Irish Standard
I.S. ISO 10011-1 : 1991

Guidelines for Auditing Quality Systems. Part 1: Auditing

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NSAI
1 Swift Square,
Northwood, Santry
Dublin 9

T +353 1 807 3800
F +353 1 807 3838
E standards@nsai.ie
W **NSAI.ie**

Sales:
T +353 1 857 6730
F +353 1 857 6729
W standards.ie

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

International Standard ISO 10011-1 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 176, *Quality management and quality assurance*.

ISO 10011 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Guidelines for auditing quality systems*:

— *Part 1: Auditing*

— *Part 2: Qualification criteria for quality systems auditors*

— *Part 3: Management of audit programmes*

Annex A of this part of ISO 10011 is for information only.

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Introduction

The ISO 9000 series emphasizes the importance of quality audit as a key management tool for achieving the objectives set out in an organization's policy.

Audits should be carried out in order to determine that the various elements within a quality system are effective and suitable for achieving the stated quality objectives.

This part of ISO 10011 provides guidelines for performing an audit of a quality system of an organization. It allows users to adjust the guidelines described to suit their needs.

The quality system audit also provides objective evidence concerning the need for the reduction, elimination and, especially, prevention of nonconformities.

The results of these audits can be used by management to improve the performance of the organization.

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