ISO 20121:2024

Event Sustainability Management

What has changed, the opportunity and next steps

1) What are the changes in the updated version of the standard?

Key Changes in this revision:

- The text, clause sequence and relevant definitions have been aligned with the harmonized structure for management system standards in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1, 2022, Annex SL, Appendix 2. The change allows easier integra tion with other standards.
- The text has been improved to take into consideration: enhancement of environmental, social and governance (ESG) requirements; a reduction of negative impacts and maximization of positive ESG impacts; making the standard more user friendly and accessible.
- The revision has also included the addition of Climate Change considerations to Management Systems Standards.

Specific Changes to the requirements:

- New / revised "Note" explaining clause requirements are provided in varies clauses.
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- Newly included clause 9.3.4 for performance evaluation.
- Updated Annex A regarding Interested Parties engagement.
- Updated Annex C regarding Guidance for organization to reporting.
- Newly inclusion of Annex D – informative section on Human and child rights.

Editorial Changes:

- “International standard” replaced with “document” throughout.
- Rephrases of sentences to allow for easier translation.

2) What are the opportunities of these changes?

The impact of the changes to the standard is significant, as it contains critical changes needed to ensure your Event Sustainability Management System is aligned with your current business incorporated changes in our ISO 20121 Implementation Course and Introdu ctory Course. We recommend you contact your local BSI Office to schedule a training.

We are interested in transitioning. Can we just combine with our next surveillance visits?

Yes absolutely, but you first need to understand the changes and the opportunities to your business so you can be sure you are ready in suitable time for a smooth transition and protecting your business effectively in the meantime.

Are there other ways to complete the Transition Audit?

You could perform the transition audit during the routine surveillance audit, during the recertification audit or a special audit. Please refer to question 3 for the transition timeline.

Why should I do anything now if I have until March 2027?

There is potentially a lot of work to do to become compliant. More importantly, by ignoring the fact that global best practice has been updated to reflect current risks, you could be exposing your business to unnecessary risk. All organizations should understand the changes and the impact on their organization as soon as possible. They can then plan the implementation of the changes in a controlled way prioritizing based on risk and effort. See questions number one and two for further information.

What's the value of transitioning in the short term?