



International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

Website: <http://www.iso.org/iso/home.htm>

Based in: Switzerland

Type: Standard Setting Body*; **NGO/nonprofit**

(*Focused on quality and general environmental concerns)

Certification process: **ISO** publishes standards, and other certifying bodies are responsible for providing audits to ensure that businesses or organizations meet those standards. **ISO** has no say in what organizations bear **ISO** certifications; certifying bodies are responsible. **ISO** does not provide labels for certified organizations or products, but encourages certified organizations to publicize their certifications by other means.

From the ISO website: “ISO is a non-governmental organization that forms a bridge between the public and private sectors. On the one hand, many of its member institutes are part of the governmental structure of their countries, or are mandated by their government. On the other hand, other members have their roots uniquely in the private sector, having been set up by national partnerships of industry associations.”

What they certify:

- Quality Management (ISO 9001_)
- Environmental Management (ISO 14001)
- Approximately 16,000 other processes and products

Certifying systems since: 1987 (**ISO 9000** group) and 1966 (**ISO 14001**)

Standards overview:

- **ISO 9001 standards** define requirements for food quality management of any organization. They list specific processes that should be in place to ensure products meet customer standards and any relevant regulations. 9001 standards also require that organizations continue to improve their systems and apply them in ways that will improve customer satisfaction.
- **ISO 14001 standards** define requirements for good environmental management by any organization. These requirements are designed to reduce environmental impacts under headings such as Life Cycle Analysis, Greenhouse Gas Accounting and Verification, Environmental Management Systems, Environmental Aspects of Products, Environmental Labels, Environmental Communication, and Environmental Performance Evaluation. Organizations are required to meet the standards, but are not instructed how to do so. 14001 requires that the organization show progress in this field to remain compliant with the standard.

Miscellaneous information: **ISO** 14001 and **ISO** 9001 standards have been used by more than a million organizations around the world. A suffix after an **ISO** standard number (e.g. ISO 9001:2008) denotes the version of the standard (year updated).