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Second edition
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Guidelines for auditing management systems

Lignes directrices pour l'audit des systèmes de management



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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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. 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.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 19011 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 176, *Quality management and quality assurance*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Supporting technologies*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 19011:2002), which has been technically revised.

The main differences compared with the first edition are as follows:

- the scope has been broadened from the auditing of quality and environmental management systems to the auditing of any management systems;
- the relationship between ISO 19011 and ISO/IEC 17021 has been clarified;
- remote audit methods and the concept of risk have been introduced;
- confidentiality has been added as a new principle of auditing;
- Clauses 5, 6 and 7 have been reorganized;
- additional information has been included in a new Annex B, resulting in the removal of help boxes;
- the competence determination and evaluation process has been strengthened;
- illustrative examples of discipline-specific knowledge and skills have been included in a new Annex A;
- additional guidelines are available at the following website: www.iso.org/19011auditing.

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Introduction

Since the first edition of this International Standard was published in 2002, a number of new management system standards have been published. As a result, there is now a need to consider a broader scope of management system auditing, as well as providing guidance that is more generic.

In 2006, the ISO committee for conformity assessment (CASCO) developed ISO/IEC 17021, which sets out requirements for third party certification of management systems and which was based in part on the guidelines contained in the first edition of this International Standard.

The second edition of ISO/IEC 17021, published in 2011, was extended to transform the guidance offered in this International Standard into requirements for management system certification audits. It is in this context that this second edition of this International Standard provides guidance for all users, including small and medium-sized organizations, and concentrates on what are commonly termed “internal audits” (first party) and “audits conducted by customers on their suppliers” (second party). While those involved in management system certification audits follow the requirements of ISO/IEC 17021:2011, they might also find the guidance in this International Standard useful.

The relationship between this second edition of this International Standard and ISO/IEC 17021:2011 is shown in Table 1.

Table 1 — Scope of this International Standard and its relationship with ISO/IEC 17021:2011

Internal auditing	External auditing	
	Supplier auditing	Third party auditing
Sometimes called first party audit	Sometimes called second party audit	For legal, regulatory and similar purposes For certification (see also the requirements in ISO/IEC 17021:2011)

This International Standard does not state requirements, but provides guidance on the management of an audit programme, on the planning and conducting of an audit of the management system, as well as on the competence and evaluation of an auditor and an audit team.

Organizations can operate more than one formal management system. To simplify the readability of this International Standard, the singular form of “management system” is preferred, but the reader can adapt the implementation of the guidance to their own particular situation. This also applies to the use of “person” and “persons”, “auditor” and “auditors”.

This International Standard is intended to apply to a broad range of potential users, including auditors, organizations implementing management systems, and organizations needing to conduct audits of management systems for contractual or regulatory reasons. Users of this International Standard can, however, apply this guidance in developing their own audit-related requirements.

The guidance in this International Standard can also be used for the purpose of self-declaration, and can be useful to organizations involved in auditor training or personnel certification.

The guidance in this International Standard is intended to be flexible. As indicated at various points in the text, the use of this guidance can differ depending on the size and level of maturity of an organization’s management system and on the nature and complexity of the organization to be audited, as well as on the objectives and scope of the audits to be conducted.

This International Standard introduces the concept of risk to management systems auditing. The approach adopted relates both to the risk of the audit process not achieving its objectives and to the potential of the audit to interfere with the auditee’s activities and processes. It does not provide specific guidance on the organization’s risk management process, but recognizes that organizations can focus audit effort on matters of significance to the management system.