

## Transition rules for Standards ISO 9001:2015/ISO 14001:2015

Dear Sir, Dear Madam,

Publication of the new Standards ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 14001:2015 is on 15 September 2015. With this letter, we would like to inform you about the rules for the transition to the new standards, and also to give a recommendation regarding the procedure.

How long is the transition period?

The transition period of three years for upgrade to the new standards will begin in September 2015.

This means that existing certificates (ISO 9001:2008 and ISO 14001:2004) will be valid for a maximum of three years following publication. The transition to the new standard(s) must take place within the three years, otherwise the validity of the certificates will expire.

ISO 9001:2015: The transition period of three years begins on 15.09.2015 and ends on 14.09.2018 for the changeover to ISO 9001:2015

ISO 14001:2015: The transition period of three years begins on 15.09.2015 and ends on 14.09.2018 for the changeover to ISO 14001:2015

When should the upgrade to the new standard(s) take place?

The transition to the new standards generally takes place in the recertification or surveillance audit. However, transition can take place at any time based on a corresponding audit.

How much time is needed for the upgrade within the framework of the recertification audit?

It is important to be aware that the new standards really are new standards. A large number of experts from all sectors have worked on them for several years in order to take account of changed market requirements and to offer organizations better ways of operating and improving their quality and environmental management.

Even if the standards continue to bear the names ISO 9001 and ISO 14001, the new standards are based on a different philosophy, which is expressed in the overarching High Level Structure and in many changes to the content.

Before one begins to think about the time and cost involved in the auditing and certification needed for the changeover, each organization should find out how it is affected by or can participate in the changes. Within this context, it is also important to consider the in-house measures that are needed for achieving and maintaining conformity with the new standards. It will then become clear that the items to be considered by the certifier are more extensive than usual.

Against this background, and to ensure that market distortion or even a loss of quality does not occur with regard to the certification procedure, the certification body has specified the minimum extra time needed solely for the audits associated with the upgrade to the new requirements. This means that the additional time that is needed to upgrade to the requirements of ISO 9001:2015 or ISO 14001:2015 within the framework of a recertification audit is at least 10 per cent of the time for a normal recertification audit, but at least 0.25 audit days on site. When the recertification procedure is complete, you will receive the certificates according to ISO 9001:2015 or ISO 14001:2015, with a period of validity of three years.

The additional time that is needed to upgrade to the requirements of ISO 9001:2015 or ISO 14001:2015 within the framework of a surveillance audit is at least 20 per cent of the time for a surveillance audit, but at least 0.5 audit days on site. When the surveillance procedure is complete, you will receive the certificates according to ISO 9001:2015 or ISO 14001:2015. The period of validity of the certificates does not change.

Our recommendation for your procedure  
 Before you decide on either of the upgrade options, you should ensure that the new requirements of the standard have been implemented in your organisation.

As the new requirements of the standards affect the entire organization, upgrading in the recertification audit seems to be the most useful and convenient option. In order to take advantage of the benefits of the new standard we recommend that you begin the changes associated with the upgrade in good time.

The date reminder for the recertification audit, which will be sent to you in good time before the date itself, will also contain a reminder regarding upgrade to the new standards. If you wish for the upgrade within the framework of surveillance, we ask you to let us know in good time before the surveillance audit date, so that we can discuss and agree the new audit requirements with you.

If you have any questions before then, please free to contact us.

Thanks & regards.

PT. TÜV NORD Indonesia

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**Head Office:**  
 Perkantoran Hijau Arkadia, Tower F 7<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
 Suite 706, Jl. TB. Simatupang Kav.88  
 Jakarta Selatan  
 Telp. +62 21 78837338  
 Fax +62 21 78837336  
 Email indonesia@tuv-nord.com

**Laboratory Division :**  
 Jl. Science Timur 1 Block B3-F1  
 Kawasan Industri Jababeka V Cibatu  
 Cikarang - Bekasi 17530  
 Tel. +62 21 29574720  
 Fax +62 21 29574721  
 Email laboratorydivision@tuv-nord.com

**Surabaya Branch Office:**  
 Intiland Tower 11<sup>th</sup> Floor, Suite 1 E  
 Jl. Panglima Sudirman 101-103  
 Surabaya 60271  
 Tel. +62 31 5344454  
 Fax +62 31 5344482  
 Email indonesia@tuv-nord.com

