



ISO 26000:2010 SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

SUSTAINABILITY. SIMPLIFIED.

ISO 26000:2010 was launched back in 2010 by the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) following insight and feedback from a range of stakeholders globally. The standard is centred around social responsibility, including what it is and how to take action on it.

Sustainability is an evolving part of many businesses which in turn considers a range of environmental, social, and governance factors. Demonstrating commitment and action toward being more sustainable is rapidly becoming more desirable for stakeholders.

ISO 26000 aims to support organisations in making informed and valuable improvements in social responsibility and therefore their wider sustainability. The standard provides guidance to structure plans and embed strategies to support core business objectives.

Social responsibility is all about people. The responsibility of people is typically filtered through the businesses between Human Resource representatives and top management. Often businesses will establish Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Committees to oversee opportunities and risks to employee welfare.

ISO 26000 is not a management system standard. It does not contain requirements and, as such, cannot be used for certification. NQA provides an independent third-party assessment against the standard to recognise conformity to the guidance provided, therefore demonstrating to stakeholders that the standard has been used to integrate socially responsible behaviour into the business. A successful assessment against ISO 26000 will result in a positive recommendation Opinion Statement.

THE USE OF ISO 26000 WILL HELP ORGANISATIONS TO:

- Understand their impact on society including internally and externally to the business
- Enhance credibility and meet expectations of stakeholders from their sustainability efforts
- Improve performance rates from employees through support and motivation
- Solidify to interested parties the importance of social responsibility within the business
- Comply with applicable legislation

ISO 26000 highlights seven key principles that it pins as the roots of socially responsible behaviour:

1. Accountability
2. Transparency
3. Ethical behaviour
4. Respect for stakeholder interests
5. Respect for the rule of law
6. Respect for international norms of behaviour
7. Respect for human rights



The guidance in the standard has been linked to the United Nations Sustainability Development Goals (UNSDG's) as a means to addressing its agenda. The UNSDG's are composed of 17 goals covering a range of sustainability issues.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





How to prepare for your ISO 26000 journey:

PREPARE

Take time to read and understand the ISO 26000 document to determine what your scope of activity includes, the necessary outputs from the guidance provided, and the resource to be utilised in order to support implementation.

ACT

Using the guidance detailed in clause 7 of the standard, you must now implement the actions derived from the principles, core subjects and issues of social responsibility as identified in the planning stages.

REPORT

Whilst ISO 26000 doesn't mandate documented information as typical ISO standards do, it is best practice to form documentation which can navigate auditors to evidence of guidance implementation.

IMPROVE

Improvement is highlighted throughout the document and underpins the purpose of the social responsibility standard, here you must continuously review and analyse the outcome of actions taken.

ASSESS

Have recognition for your social responsibility action by seeking an independent third party assessment from NQA.

WHY CHOOSE AN ISO 26000 ASSESSMENT?

- Competitive advantage
- Enhanced reputation in sustainability
- Attract and retain employees to the business
- Improved workplace morale, commitment, and productivity
- Solidify relationships with stakeholders
- Manage and mitigate potential risk



Should you wish to discuss your assessment requirements with a member of our team, please get in contact.



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