

WEBINAR: Back To Basics ISO 27001

Linda Porter 28th July 2025

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WEBINAR AGENDA

OBJECTIVES

- Understand the core principles of ISO 27001
- Break down key components of an Information Security Management System (ISMS)
- Explore why ISO 27001 matters now more than ever
- Provide practical tips for implementation or refresh

OUTCOME

- Be able to explain the purpose and structure of ISO 27001
- Identify the mandatory clauses and key Annex A control categories
- Understand how to apply risk-based thinking to information security
- Recognise common challenges and how to avoid them



What is ISO 27001

ISO 27001 is the International Standard describing the best practices for an Information Security Management System (ISMS).

It provides a systematic approach to managing sensitive company information so that it remains secure.

Requires formulation of procedures and practices including:

- Risk Management Monitoring and Analysis of your management system
- Identifying and generating improvements





Common Misconception: "ISO 27001 is just cyber security stuff."

ISO 27001 is not just about cyber security or IT systems, it's a comprehensive management framework that helps organisations of any type identify, assess, and control risks related to information assets.

Importantly, ISO 27001 does not promise to make security breaches impossible. Instead, it ensures that a structured, risk-based approach is in place to manage and reduce information security risks in a consistent, ongoing manner.





Why It's Important

Data is a critical asset, and breaches are costly. ISO 27001 promotes shared responsibility across the organisation, helping us stay secure, compliant, and smart in how we work.

- Risk Management: Helps identify and address information security risks.
- Regulatory Compliance: Assists in meeting legal, regulatory, and contractual obligations (e.g., GDPR).
- Trust & Reputation: Builds confidence with customers, stakeholders, and partners.
- Competitive Advantage: Demonstrates a strong commitment to information security.
- Incident Reduction: Reduces the likelihood and impact of security breaches



Structure and Key Clauses of ISO 27001

Key Clauses	Description
Clause 4: Context of the Organisation	Understanding internal/external issues, stakeholders, and ISMS scope.
Clause 5: Leadership	Top management commitment, policy, roles, and responsibilities.
Clause 6: Planning	Risk assessment, treatment plans, and ISMS objectives.
Clause 7: Support	Resources, awareness, communication, documented information.
Clause 8: Operation	Operational planning and control, risk treatment execution.
Clause 9: Performance Evaluation	Monitoring, measurement, analysis, internal audits, and management reviews.
Clause 10: Improvement	Continual improvement, nonconformity handling, and corrective actions.



Annex A

Annex A Controls (updated in ISO 27001:2022):

- Organisational controls
- People controls
- Physical controls
- Technological controls

Where the Risk Controls are found!

Can be augmented by controls not specifically listed within your ISMS.



Common Implementation Mistakes

Treating it as an IT-only project

Involve departments such as HR, Legal, Operations ISMS spans the whole business.

Copy-pasting templates without customisation

Tailor policies and procedures to your actual environment and risk profile.

Focusing too much on documentation

Ensure that procedures are actually implemented and followed, not just written.

Ignoring top management involvement

Leadership must actively support and review the ISMS.

Inadequate risk assessment

Use a structured, repeatable method to identify, assess, and treat risks.

Not training employees

Provide security awareness training regularly across the organization.



Steps Toward ISO 27001 Certification

Before engaging a Certification Body (CB), conduct internal preparation, typically starting with a gap analysis to assess what's already in place. If existing policies align with ISO 27001, there's no need to start from scratch.

- Define your scope: Boundaries of what your ISMS will cover
- Complete Risk Assessment:
 - Identify risk owner
 - Consider Annex A controls to be used.
 - Risks can also be opportunities
 - Identify assets, threats, vulnerabilities, and apply controls
- Develop Required Documentation: Policies, procedures, Statement of Applicability (SoA), risk treatment plan, etc.
- Audit, Review and Improve PDCA!
- External audits stage one and stage two

Conclusion

- ISO 27001 is a framework for managing information security risks not just an IT or cyber security tool.
- It treats data as a critical asset and helps reduce the risk and cost of data breaches.
- Responsibility is organisation-wide, not limited to the IT department.
- ISO promotes smart, secure, and efficient ways of working.
- Before talking to a Certification Body (CB), conduct a gap analysis to identify what's already in place.
- Leverage existing policies, like risk management, rather than starting from scratch.
- ISO 27001 helps organisations achieve compliance, resilience, and trust.



Training Offered

STANDARD	TRAINING
ISO 27001	ISO 27001 E-learning Level 1 Introduction Online – In your own time
ISO 27001	CQI and IRCA ISO 27001 Internal Auditor (A2574) Level 2 Intermediate Thursday 4 th – Friday 5 th September 2025
ISO 27001	CQI and IRCA ISO 27001 Lead Auditor (A2573) Level 3 Advanced Monday 22 nd – Friday 26 th September 2025
ISO 9001	ISO 9001 E-Learning Level 1 Introduction Online – In your own time

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