

Transition to ISO 9001:2008

Sept. 24, 2008

Orion has created its transition plan based on a joint IAF-ISO communiqué on the subject. The communiqué is reprinted at the bottom of this document.

Certification of conformity to ISO 9001:2008 will only be issued after the official publication of ISO 9001:2008 and after an audit against ISO 9001:2008. Orion will develop a checklist covering the ISO 9001:2008 revisions for use during these audits. This checklist will be used in conjunction with Orion's standard forms. Orion will make this checklist available to its clients.

A document review to ISO 9001:2008 is only required if there have been significant changes to the management system, the client, or the context in which the management system is operating (e.g. changes to legislation). This requirement is the same as for any other surveillance or recertification audit. Since there are no "new" requirements in ISO 9001, nonconformities identified during this audit will follow the usual process and have the standard deadlines. Prior to certification to ISO 9001:2008, all major Nonconformity Reports must be closed, and all correction and corrective action plans must have been reviewed and accepted for all minor Nonconformity Reports. This will be verified as part of an independent review by an Orion Certifier prior to certification to ISO 9001:2008.

Per the IAF-ISO communiqué, the transition after ISO 9001:2008 is published is to be handled as shown below.

Until 12 months after publication of ISO 9001:2008

- All audits may be conducted to either ISO 9001:2000 or ISO 9001:2008.

Beginning 12 months after publication

- All certification and recertification audits must be conducted to ISO 9001:2008.
- Surveillance audits may be conducted to either ISO 9001:2000 or ISO 9001:2008.

Beginning 24 months after publication

All ISO 9001:2000 certificates become invalid and are withdrawn, and clients who do not have an ISO 9001:2008 certificate are no longer certified. Orion's website and Registered Company List will reflect the fact that these certificates are invalid.

In order to minimize both cost and risk, clients are strongly encouraged to be audited to the ISO 9001:2008 standard at their first regularly scheduled audit after its publication. This will allow their transition to ISO 9001:2008 to take place without the need for any additional audit days, and will allow clients sufficient time to address any nonconformities and to receive their ISO 9001:2008 certificate before the withdrawal of their ISO 9001:2000 certificate.

If a client chooses not to be audited to ISO 9001:2008 at their first regularly scheduled audit after its publication, and their next scheduled audit is less than five months before the withdrawal deadline, this client runs the risk of either 1) having their ISO 9001:2000

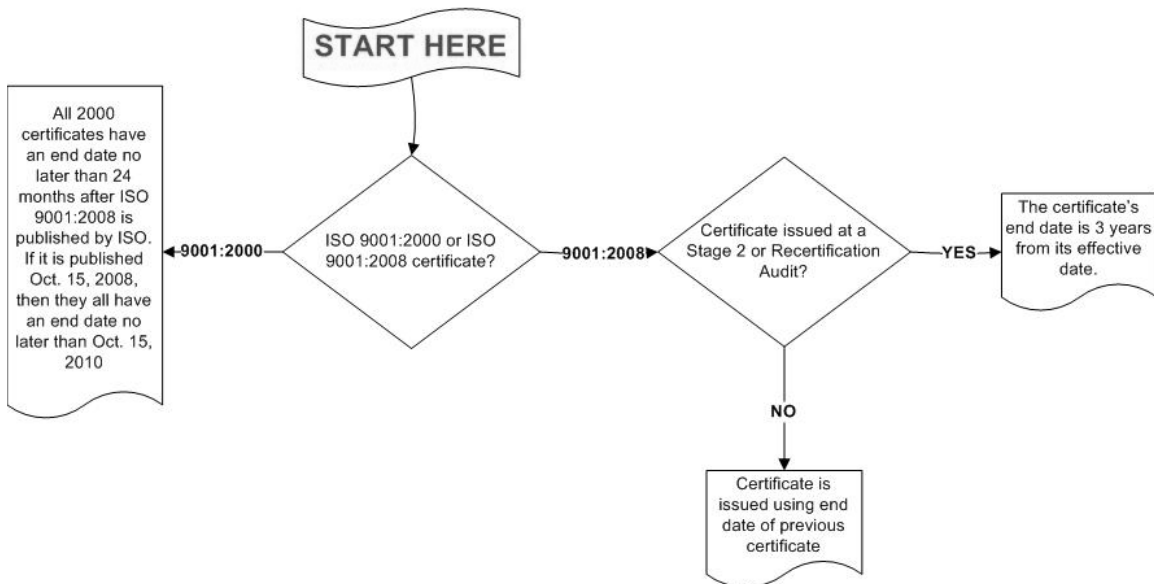
certificate become invalid before they are certified to ISO 9001:2008 or 2) needing an additional off-schedule audit so that they move to the new standard before the deadline.

A five month window allows for 120 days for any major nonconformities to be corrected by the client, verified and closed by Orion, and 30 days for the certifier to review and certify the file. Due to the number of clients involved in this transition, Orion strongly suggests that clients plan and schedule their transitions as soon as possible to avoid any backlogs during the final weeks prior to the deadline.

When scheduling their audits, clients must tell scheduling which version of the standard they wish to use. If a client is unsure, they may contact their auditor or Penny Ouellette, Program Development Director, to discuss the matter. If their 4th quarter 2008 or 2009 audit has already been scheduled, the client should contact scheduling to let them know which standard should be used for this audit.

New certificates will be issued to the ISO 9001:2008 standard regardless of the type of audit prompting the certificate. However, the three-year certification cycle will remain in effect. For example, if the transition takes place at a surveillance audit, the end date on the certificate will be the same as on the client's ISO 9001:2000 certificate. If the transition takes place at a Stage 2 or recertification audit, the end date will be three years from the certification date. Because all ISO 9001:2000 certificates will be withdrawn 24 months after the publication of ISO 9001:2008, ISO 9001:2000 certificates issued after the publication of ISO 9001:2008 will include this deadline as their end date.

Decision Tree for Certificate End Date After Publication of ISO 9001:2008



Orion clients will be expected to have the ISO 9001:2008 standard after it has been published. Because ISO has stated that there are no additional requirements in ISO 9001:2008, Orion will not require clients to complete a full round of internal audits to

ISO 9001:2008 prior to being certified to the standard. Although Orion clients are encouraged to begin performing internal audits to the ISO 9001:2008 standard as soon as possible, Orion will not require this until the end of the 24 month transition period. There were no changes at all to the requirements for Management Review, so there are no transition concerns regarding this clause.

If a client wants to expedite its certification to ISO 9001:2008 to occur prior to its first regularly scheduled audit, it can request that an additional audit be conducted outside of its normal audit cycle, after the publication of ISO 9001:2008. If the client's next regularly scheduled audit is a multi-day surveillance audit, the days may be split between the two audits, and both audits will count toward their required man-days. If the client's next regularly scheduled audit is a single day audit or a recertification audit, additional time will be required for the off-cycle audit. It is not acceptable to disrupt the audit cycle by moving forward a regularly scheduled audit and thereby increasing the time between future audits to more than 12 months. It is also not acceptable to split a recertification audit into two parts, since ISO 17021 requires recertification audits to include an on-site audit that addresses the effectiveness of the management system in its entirety.

Questions about Orion's transition plan may be addressed to Penny Ouellette, Orion's Program Development Director. She may be reached at Penny@orion4value.com or at 303-645-4023.

Joint IAF-ISO communiqué

Implementation of accredited certification to ISO 9001:2008

ISO (International Organization for Standardization) and the IAF (International Accreditation Forum) have agreed an implementation plan to ensure a smooth migration of accredited certification to ISO 9001:2008, after consultation with international groupings representing quality system or auditor certification bodies, and industry users of ISO 9001 certification services.

ISO 9001:2008 does not contain any new requirements

They have recognized that ISO 9001:2008 introduces no new requirements. ISO 9001:2008 only introduces clarifications to the existing requirements of ISO 9001:2000 based on eight years of experience of implementing the standard world wide with about one million certificates issued in 170 countries to date. It also introduces changes intended to improve consistency with ISO14001:2004

The agreed implementation plan in relation to accredited certification is therefore the following:

Accredited certification to the ISO 9001:2008 shall not be granted until the publication of ISO 9001:2008 as an International Standard.

Certification of conformity to ISO 9001:2008 and/or national equivalents shall only be issued after official publication of ISO 9001:2008 (which should take place before the end of 2008) and after a routine surveillance or recertification audit against ISO 9001:2008.

Validity of certifications to ISO 9001:2000

One year after publication of ISO 9001:2008 all accredited certifications issued (new certifications or recertifications) shall be to ISO 9001:2008.

Twenty four months after publication by ISO of ISO 9001:2008, any existing certification issued to ISO 9001:2000 shall not be valid.