

Laboratories Seeking ISO 9001:2000? Why Not!

Does it make sense to have ISO 9001:2000 certification when you already have ISO/IEC 17025? Laboratories in compliance with ISO/IEC 17025, "General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration laboratories", means they are technically competent to perform specific tests, calibrations and/or measurements.

ISO 9001:2000 is a generic standard for Quality Management Systems (QMS) applicable to all organizations, including laboratories. Its purpose is to specify a QMS that will allow an organization to demonstrate its ability to provide products or services that meet customer and applicable regulatory requirements.

Why would a laboratory that is accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 want to embark on certification to ISO 9001:2000?

There are several reasons why dual recognition may be important. First, the laboratory's customers may specify that the laboratory gains or retains ISO 9001 certification. Secondly, ISO 9001 certification is seen by an increasing number of businesses as a way of underpinning continuous improvement. Thirdly, many laboratory-based organizations undertake activities in addition to the generation of testing, measurement and calibration data. Laboratory accreditation does not address these ancillary activities of a laboratory. If an organization's quality system covers non-testing functions such as production, accounting, marketing, information services, training etc, it may be necessary or desirable to ensure such activities are recognized through ISO 9001 certification.

Laboratories are joining many types of businesses in their search for a superb Quality Management System by seeking ISO 9001:2000 Certification. Why not join the team and pursue ISO 9001:2000 to enhance your business as well!

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