

Social responsibility management system certification according to IQNet SR 10 Requirements

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The publication of the ISO 26000 International Standard Guidance on Social Responsibility has had a definite impact on society and, in particular, in the way in which organisations relate to their stakeholders. ISO 26000 is an extremely useful guide that details the basic principles on which all organisations' social responsibility must be grounded.

New specification

However, this standard does not contain provisions for determining the minimum requirements for the practical implementation of the social responsibility principles and cannot be certified by organisations that are willing to demonstrate compliance with such principles. Organisations need models to support them integrating the recommendations, guidelines and principles of ISO 26000 in their daily business.

IQNet SR 10 is an international specification, developed by IQNet Association and its Partners based on the RS10 specification issued by AENOR Spain. It is aimed to integrate social responsibility management into organisations' business strategy and to communicate the achievements obtained through certification.

The success of these tools is due to its features meeting all of organisations' expectations, large ones and SMEs, public and private, and from all sectors; both for companies that are starting to implement their corporate social responsibility strategy, and those who are already halfway there and now need to integrate the actions they have been working on into their daily operations.

The IQNet SR 10 specification establishes requirements for defining, implementing, maintaining and improving a social responsibility management system, so as to integrate social responsibility within all the organizations and to contribute to sustainable development, taking into account stakeholders' needs and expectations to show the capacity of an organization to fulfill, through an ethical and transparent behavior

Main principles

In addition to those mentioned above, other characteristics that contribute to the success of IQNet SR 10 are:

- It is based on the principles and directives detailed in the international recommendations made by the ILO, UN, EU and on the general principles of social responsibility, which integrates financial-economic management and good governance issues, along with environmental and social matters;
- Includes the principles, directives and recommendations established in the International Standard ISO 26000 Guidance on Social Responsibility*;
- It is based on the Deming Cycle (Plan-Do-Check-Act) of continuous improvement, so that it can be complemented and integrated with other management systems, such as quality management systems (ISO 9001), environmental management systems (ISO 14001), occupational health and safety (OHSAS 18001), social accountability management systems (SA8000) to name a few;
- It is complementary to other initiatives focused on concrete stakeholders such as GRI (Global Reporting Initiative), BSCI (Business Social Compliance Initiative), SMETA (Sedex Members Ethical Trade Audit), etc.

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Benefits for your Organisation

Leadership and Business Management

- Positions the organisation as socially responsible
- Improves communication and understanding of expectations and needs of all stakeholders
- Promotes a more balanced decision-making process that involves all stakeholders
- Allows integration with management systems based on other standards (ISO 9001, ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001, SA8000 etc.) and excellence models (EFQM, FUNDIBEQ, etc.)
- Improves the organisation's risk management practices
- Increases employees' loyalty, involvement, participation and morale
- Improves workers' health and safety
- Has a positive impact on the capacity to hire, motivate and retain employees
- Generates innovation

Social and Environmental

- Reduces negative impacts on society and the environment
 - Favours the promotion and start-up of SR initiatives and programmes
- Stimulates the implementation of actions and initiatives that represent a positive impact on ecosystems and biodiversity

Financial and Commercial

- Improves competitiveness and contributes to accessing funding and relations with investors and partners
- Supports an organisation to positively differentiate from the competition
- Strengthens the organisation's image with clients, consumers, shareholders, investors, community
- Increases savings associated with increased productivity and resource efficiency, decreased energy and water consumption, reduced wastes and the recovery of valuable by-products

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