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NSF-ISR

AS9100:2016 Transition: Frequently Asked Questions

As we approach the transition to the 2016 version of the AS standards (AS9100, AS9110 or AS9120), we felt it would be prudent to write this message, to address some of the frequently asked questions we have been receiving:

The standard is changing, what should I be doing?

Despite the release of the 9001:2015 standard, the new aerospace standard(s) are currently in the balloting / draft phase only. The anticipated publication date is slated for April 2016. At this time, the formal information available is limited to the IAQG's deployment support materials page (see link below) and we anticipate minor – if any – changes to the currently published information. The support materials contain a good summary of the changes, but is not a complete document/standard.

At this point, developing an understanding of the 9001:2015 document would be beneficial to all aerospace organizations. Additionally, staying informed through responsible sources may be beneficial, but be cautious of spending excessive money on this limited and possibly speculative information. We would strongly encourage you to **NOT** make changes to your system that would result in a departure from the current standard's requirements, as we will continue to audit to this version through the official transition.

Why does my new certificate expire in September 2018? That's not 3 years?!

The soon-to-be-released transition document – Supplemental Rule (SR-003) – has mandated certificates expire with the cancellation of the standard (e.g. ISO9001:2008, AS9100C). This is not new, as ISO 9001:2008 certificates are currently issued with the expiry date in September 2018, based on an ISO mandate.

Once your certificate has been upgraded / transitioned to the 2016 version, the expiry date will be corrected to 3 years from the time of the last registration or re-registration assessment.

As an example:

- Registration audit (Stage 2) was conducted to AS9100C in January 2017, the certificate's expiry date would reflect 14 September 2018 (less than 2 years validity).
- Surveillance audit (including upgrade) was conducted to AS9100D in January 2018. A new certificate would be issued with an expiration date of January 2020 (3 years total).

When can I get certified to the new version?

The IAQG has adopted the ISO9001:2015 timeline for transition. This means that all certificates will have to convert to the new standard by 15 September 2018, as the current version is set to expire at that time. Any certificate that has not been transitioned will be considered "expired" and clients will be forced to undergo a stage 1 and stage 2 audit to the new standard.

The new versions are tentatively slated for release in April 2016. Another key benchmark is for the auditor transition / training materials to be released in August 2016. Once the materials have been released, all scheme auditors will have to complete the training and seek credentials to the new standard...this will take some time, but a completion deadline has been set for June 2017. In parallel, Certification Bodies (e.g. NSF-ISR) will have to seek approval from the Accreditation Bodies (e.g. ANAB) prior to conducting audits to the new standard(s). This too, must be complete by June 2017.

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As you can see, there is a lot of activity to occur and, unfortunately, much of this is controlled by parties outside of NSF-ISR.

NSF has tentatively identified 15 February 2017 as our "upgrade date", the date when we will be approved by our accreditation partner for issuing 2016 version certificates. As this is 3 months prior to the mandatory conversion, we can offer some flexibility in the standard version used in audits being conducted between February and May of 2017.

In short, it will be early 2017 before the industry is anticipated to be ready to audit to the new standard. As such, certified organizations must maintain their QMS to be compliant to their current certification standard until the time of transition.

I have made some changes and I am ready for ISO 9001:2015. Can you get me as AS9100C and ISO 9001:2015 certificate?

Yes and no...the industry's transition rules specifically state that 9100C audits are always paired with 9001:2008. If a client organization wants a certificate to ISO9001:2015 and AS9100C, all CBs would be required to perform two separate audits; one for ISO 9001:2015 only, and one for AS9100C / ISO9001:2008. Despite the similarity of the standard's content, it is explicitly required that auditing time be separate for these standards...obviously, more audit days needed would result in significantly increased costs for this dual registration! Additionally, it would be required that the certified organization maintain a management system (and associated "documents and records" / "documented information") that conforms to both versions of the ISO document.

As a point of clarification, this would hold true for any of the current / released aerospace standards and is not specific to AS9100C.

Other Certification Bodies are doing "it", why can't you?

NSF-ISR holds itself to the highest standards, with regard to the industry stakeholder and accreditation partner expectations. In order to maintain the integrity of our issued certificates and the validity of our accreditations, we are committed to strict adherence to industry requirements. We will continue on this course, despite the directions that others choose to proceed. As such, we have committed our experienced technical staff to ensure an accurate understanding and execution of these rules.

NSF-ISR is committed to making this transition as easy as possible and assisting all of our valued clients through this process. Please "stay tuned" for future communiques from NSF.