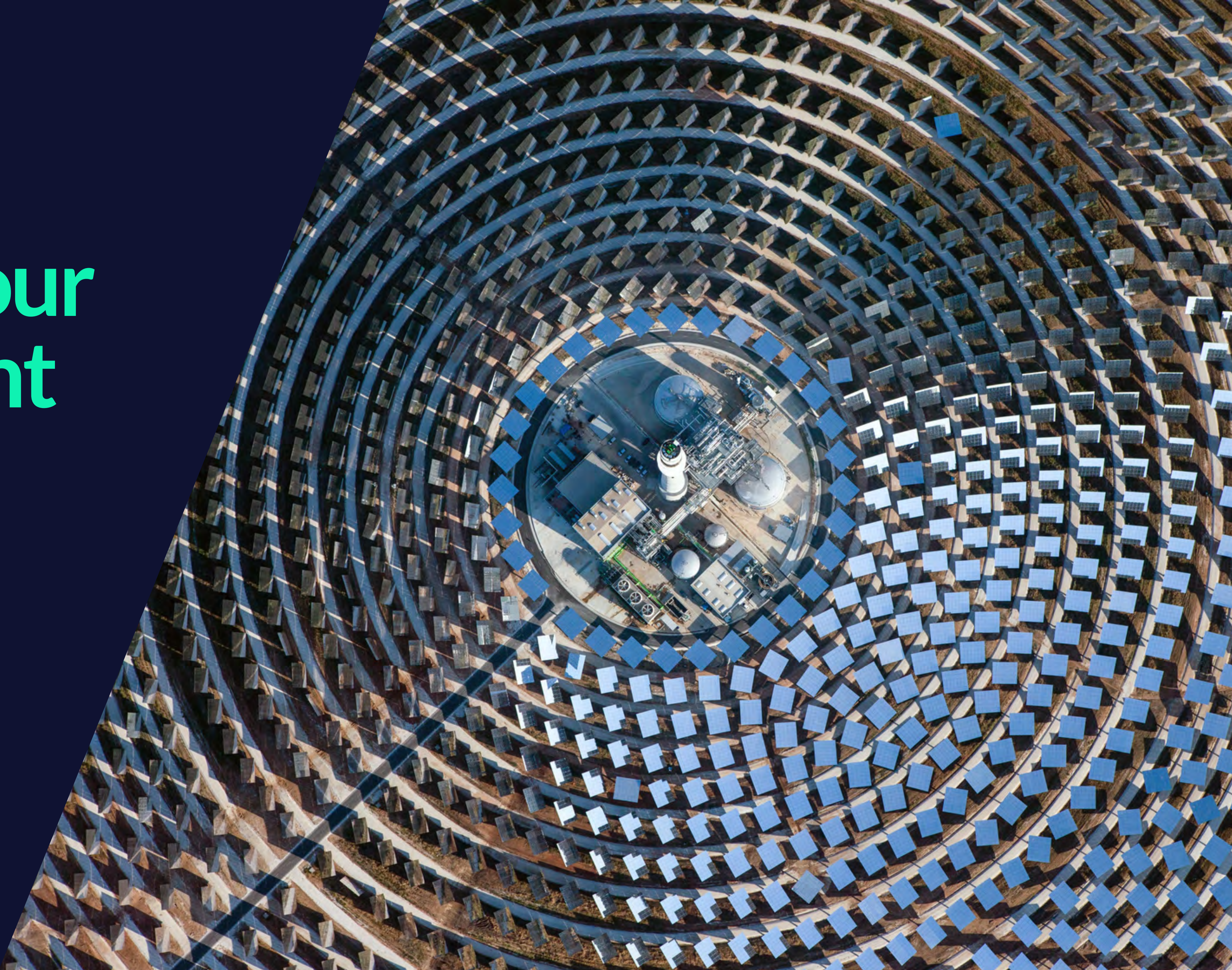


Integrate your management systems

A guide to Annex SL



What is Annex SL?

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Annex SL is the high-level structure for modern ISO Standards. The Annex SL structure ensures consistency and compatibility between the different management system standards and allows for a straightforward and harmonised implementation of multiple standards (integrated management systems).

Benefits of integrated management systems

At LRQA, we see very clear benefits for companies in implementing an integrated management system that features a number of ISO standards. This is an effective mechanism for companies to manage their risk profile in an integrated way across different aspects of their activities such as service delivery, environmental footprint, or health & safety of their workforce. This also allows companies to easily link their strategic

objectives to their operations, and successfully engage stakeholders. Once the first management system standard has been brought in and the right foundations for building an integrated management systems approach are established, the time, effort, and activity required to implement additional standards is significantly lower, with the returns far outweighing the investment.

A photograph of a server room with rows of server racks illuminated by blue light, creating a perspective effect.

Annex SL is an effective mechanism for companies to manage their risk profile in an integrated way across different aspects of their activities.

Annex SL Clauses

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The Annex SL structure consists of ten clauses. All content in a management system standard must meet the criteria of all ten clauses to follow the Annex SL framework. The clauses are categorised as:

Clause 1. Scope

This defines the intended outcomes of the management system.

Clause 2. Normative references

References any relevant standards or publications.

Clause 3. Terms and definitions

Definitions of the common terms used throughout the standard are defined here.

Clause 4. Context of the organisation

This defines the areas the management system will cover.

Clause 5. Leadership

This area stresses the importance of the leadership team's involvement in the management system's operation.

Clause 6. Planning

How the management system will achieve its objectives and how the business will deal with risk.

Clause 7. Support

How the operation of the management system will be supported to run efficiently.

Clause 8. Operation

Details on the day-to-day processes and operations in your business, including how you will track the performance of these areas.

Clause 9. Performance evaluation

Analysing and monitoring how well your business is operating against the requirements of your management system.

Clause 10. Improvement

Using the results of your performance evaluation to improve your business and its processes.

In most cases, these clauses use identical core text, regardless of the standard they are applied to, and share common terms and definitions to promote consistency and compatibility across management systems standards. This means that the basic arrangements of a management system are standardised.

Another benefit is that discipline-focused details are contained under the operation clause (clause 8) and are only referenced in other clauses where necessary; for example, in ISO 14001, the environmental risk register falls under the planning clause (clause 6).

Which standards use the Annex SL framework?

Most modern management systems (released or updated since 2011) use the Annex SL framework throughout their standards.

More familiar ISO Standards such as ISO 9001, ISO14001, ISO 27001, and ISO 45001 all follow the Annex SL structure.

Benefits of ISO 9001

Satisfied customers

Designed for organisations of any size and in any sector, ISO 9001 certification enables you to demonstrate that you are committed to meeting customer and stakeholder needs and expectations through quality and continual improvement.



New business opportunities

In many cases, independent third-party certification to ISO 9001 is a requirement to trade, and through our globally recognised brand, certification from LRQA can provide a competitive advantage. Where certification is not a contractual obligation, it gives credibility to develop secure business relationships within your supply chain.



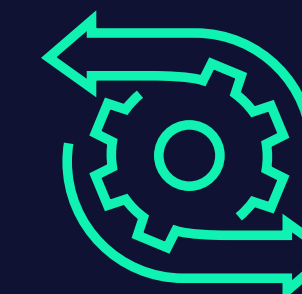
Streamlined processes

By following the best practice principles found in ISO 9001, certification helps develop a more robust approach to risk management and a greater understanding of the internal and external context of your organisation, which will contribute to your business effectiveness and performance.



Easy integration

ISO 9001 follows Annex SL, the high-level structure used by all new and revised ISO standards, which makes it far simpler for management system controls to be integrated into a single 'business management system,' helping reduce duplication in cost and effort.



Benefits of ISO 14001

Environmental legislation compliance

ISO 14001 certification can help you comply with legal requirements by providing a systematic approach for addressing current and identifying future legislation.



Easy integration

ISO 14001 shares a common management system framework with other management system standards, such as ISO 9001 and ISO 45001, enabling easy integration with your quality, environmental and occupational health & safety management systems.



Improved management of environmental risk

ISO 14001 can help to manage and improve performance in key metric areas such as lower energy usage, waste reduction, increased recycling, and lower raw material and consumable costs. This reduces the need for reactive strategies such as clean-ups and litigation, which can result in reputational damage and legal proceedings.



Increased credibility

Being independently assessed against ISO 14001 increases your credibility and provides a competitive edge over non-certified businesses when invited to tender.



Risk management

Certification to ISO 14001 can help you demonstrate you are managing environmental risks and are making continual improvements against specific targets.



Cost reduction

By promoting continual improvement against environmental objectives, ISO 14001 can help drive more efficient use of raw materials and enhanced performance leading to cost reductions.



Benefits of ISO 27001

Protecting your data and reputation

ISO 27001 certification demonstrates to your stakeholders that you have a systematic, risk-based approach to managing the security of your information assets. By implementing effective information, and security controls, your organisation will continuously assess the risks and threats and drive the actions needed to manage them.



Stay one step ahead

Certification to ISO 27001 requires you to identify applicable legislation, such as the EU GDPR. This has a positive impact on risk management and corporate governance. It will demonstrate to your customers and other stakeholders that you have the controls and procedures to protect their data by preventing breaches.



Benefits of ISO 45001

A healthier and safer workforce

ISO 45001 aims to reduce work-related incidents and focuses on creating a health and safety culture whereby employees are encouraged to take an active role in their own OH&S. This – underpinned by strong leadership with demonstrable commitment to OH&S – helps to create a culture of safety, resulting in reduced staff turnover, increased morale and improved staff retention rates – as well as making their work environment both safer and healthier.



Maximise productivity

ISO 45001 helps your organisation systematically understand risk profiles to keep your workforce healthy and safe, thereby reducing staff turnover and increasing productivity.



Compliance and a commitment to excellence

ISO 45001 provides a clear framework to manage your regulatory and legal obligations. Implementing a robust OH&S management system can help to deliver stakeholder confidence, thereby improving your brand reputation and providing a competitive advantage when bidding for contracts.



Easy integration

ISO 45001 easily integrates with all new and revised ISO management system standards, such as ISO 9001 and ISO 14001, as it shares the same high-level text and common structure.



Why choose LRQA?

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Working with a credible and respected partner to certify your management systems is a uniquely powerful way to show stakeholders that high standards are being set and met. Certification helps ensure that working practices minimise risks in the future while allowing you to enhance your reputation in the present by demonstrating your commitment to safe, sustainable, and ethical ways of working.

Strategic vision

Our technical know-how, industry expertise, and innovative, forward-thinking approach will help you meet the challenges of today – and become a safer, cleaner, more resilient, and more ethical organisation tomorrow.

Technical expertise

Our people are leading experts in their sectors and technologies across certification, inspection services, sustainability, training, and cybersecurity. We work alongside your teams to gain a clear understanding of risks, challenges, and needs – then share our knowledge to help your business thrive, today and tomorrow.

Global capability

Operating in more than 160 countries, recognised by over 30 accreditation bodies worldwide, and covering a wide breadth of industries, we can help you manage risk, drive business improvements, build credibility with stakeholders and meet sustainability goals – both within your business and across your supply chain.

Effective partnerships

Every business is unique. That's why our experts work with you to fully understand your needs and goals and determine how we can best support them.

Pioneering approach

We have led the way in shaping our industry – and continue to take every opportunity to collaborate with clients and pioneer new ideas, services, and innovations.



YOUR FUTURE. OUR FOCUS.

About LRQA:

By bringing together unrivalled expertise in certification, brand assurance, cybersecurity, inspection and training, we’ve become a leading global assurance provider.

We’re proud of our heritage, but it’s who we are today that really matters, because that’s what shapes how we partner with our clients tomorrow. By combining strong values, decades of experience in risk management and mitigation, and a keen focus on the future, we’re here to support our clients as they build safer, more secure, more sustainable businesses.

From independent auditing, certification and training; to technical advisory services; to real-time assurance technology; to data-driven supply chain transformation, our innovative end-to-end solutions help our clients negotiate a rapidly changing risk landscape – making sure they’re shaping their own future, rather than letting it shape them.

Get in touch

Visit www.lrqa.com/uk for more information, email enquiries.uk@lrqa.com or call **0800 014 9152**



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