



Introduction to ISO Certification

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ISO certification connects responsible business, environmental and management practices with consumers and provides a consistent, international basis for your, organisation claims about the quality of service you provide.

What is ISO certification?

ISO certification is when your business is “audited” by an independent third party, to assess

how well it complies with the following standards:

- ISO 9001 - Quality Management Systems
- ISO 14001 - Environmental Management Systems
- OHSAS 18001 - Health and Safety Management Systems

These standards are international “templates for good business” practices.

What are the benefits of ISO certification?

The benefits of ISO certification for your organisation are it:

1. Ensures that your product, or your service, is controlled, consistent & will improve
2. Gives your customers confidence that your business is well run
3. Is often a requirement before your business can tender for work

ISO 9001

ISO 9001 is suitable for any organisation looking to improve the way it is operated and managed, regardless of its size or sector.

The advantages of ISO 9001 for your organisation can include:

- **Greater efficiency and consistent control of major business processes**
- **Regulation of successful working practices**
- **Increased customer satisfaction**
- **Greater consistency in the quality of products and services through better control of processes**

ISO 14001

ISO 14001 is often seen as the main frame work for an environmental management system.

By having your organisation's environmental management system independently assessed, you will be making a powerful statement about your organisation's environmental credentials.

The advantages of ISO 14001 for your business can include:

- **Better management of environmental risks**
- **Increased access to new customers and business partners**
- **Demonstration of legal and regulatory compliance**
- **Overall cost savings in terms of consumption, waste and recycling**

OHSAS 18001

OHSAS 18001 is an international occupational health and safety management system specification.

Most organizations pursue OHSAS 18001 certification to improve Health and safety to qualify for a tender or to achieve preferred supplier status: e.g. for a Local Authority. However, there are many other benefits that can be gained, including:

- **Reduced risk to employees, customers and suppliers**
- **Reduction in the costs associated with accidents at work**
- **Enhanced staff morale and motivation**
- **Reduced insurance premiums**
- **Demonstrating legal compliance**

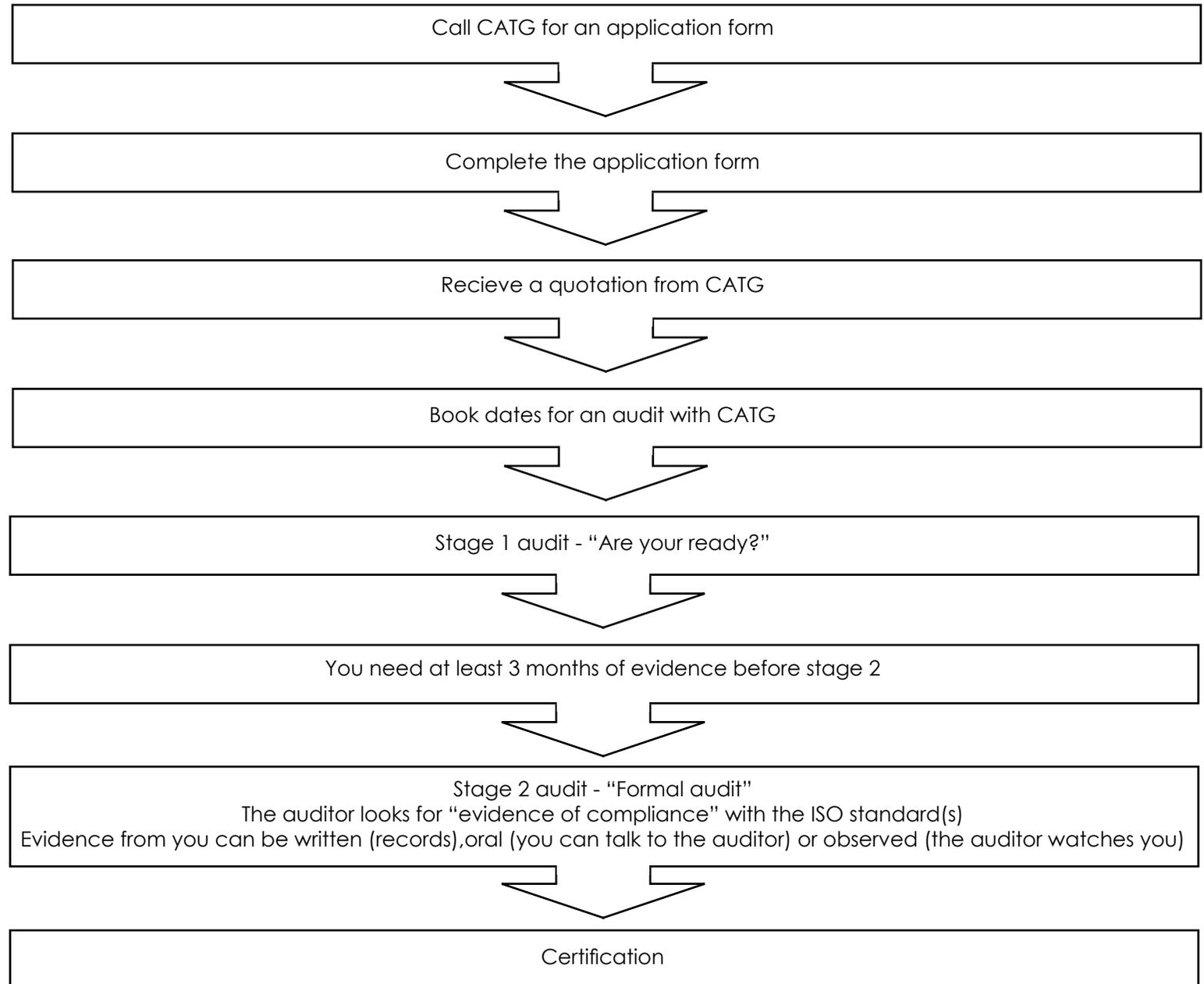
An intergrated ISO management system

If you would like an integrated management system, comprising all or some of the ISO management standards, simply let us know your requirements and we will work with you to develop the right solution for your needs.

All or any combination of these complementary standards can be integrated seamlessly. They share many principles, so choosing an integrated management system can provide you with outstanding value for money.

How is ISO certification achieved?

ISO certification usually follows the process below:



How does CATG help?

CATG are an approved body for the certification of ISO systems with UKAS.

The range of services we offer includes:

Stage 1 or Pre-assessments

Stage 1 or a pre-assessment will prove an invaluable tool. Our auditor will assess your proposed scheme or schemes and take you through the entire certification process. It includes initial discussions with you, meeting with your staff, a site visit and auditing your document preparation.

The auditor will carry out the evaluation using our ISO checklist.

The auditor will identify any parts of the standards which are or are not fully complied with and will discuss any conditions to certification with you. Our auditor will leave you with a copy of their findings.

Stage 2 or Main assessments

The auditor will carry out the evaluation using our ISO checklist. The auditor will identify any parts of the standard which are or are not compliant, and parts that not fully complied with and will discuss any conditions to certification with you.

At the end of the assessment visit the auditor will discuss the evaluation results with you, and ask you to confirm them by signing a form.

After the main assessment, the auditor will submit a written report detailing all the observations made during the visit, listing any identified non-compliances with the standard and describing any conditions that were discussed.

Certification decision

CATG will after your main assessment, finalise our certification decision on the basis of the auditor's report and any comments you have made on it.

If there are no conditions we will issue a certificate immediately. If there are only minor conditions we will issue a certificate on the basis that you agree to take appropriate actions within a specified time frame. If there are pre-conditions we will not issue a certificate until after you have taken appropriate actions.

Once we have received your written agreement to take any necessary actions to close out conditions within the specified time and the certification fees have been paid, a Certificate of Registration will be issued, usually valid for three years conditional on successful annual monitoring.

At this stage you are able to apply the ISO, UKAS and CATG trademarks and logos and promote them with your products and your advertising materials.

What happens after I am certified?

We will carry out regular surveillance visits.

The first Surveillance visit usually takes place 6 or 12 months after certification. There after, surveillance visits will take place at least annually and are usually arranged one month in advance. The surveillance visit is very similar to the main evaluation visit.

Certification for ISO lasts for 3 years. After this period, a Main Assessment is required.

Contact details

For any help please call Glenn on 0044 (0)1524 400632 or email him on sales@catg.co.uk.