

Coordinating Editor's Prologue

The Standard ISO 9001:2015 – A Milestone in the Evolution of Quality Management

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*The international scientific journal **Asigurarea Calității – Quality Assurance** dedicates a special issue to a leading global event in the field of standardization: the launching of the new version of the standard **ISO 9001:2015**.*

The ISO 9000 family of standards represents an international consensus on good quality management practices. It consists of standards and guidelines relating to quality management systems and related supporting standards. The family of standards ISO 9000 – together with the family of standards ISO 14000 – has become thoroughly integrated with the world economy.

ISO 9001 is undoubtedly the best known and most widely used of the many standards developed by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

In 2012, ISO TC 176 – responsible for ISO 9001 development – celebrated 25 years of implementing ISO 9001, and concluded that it is necessary to create a new QMS model for the next 25 years. This is why commenced the official work on big revision of ISO 9001, starting with the new QM principles. As a result of an intensive work of this technical committee, the revised standard ISO 9001:2015 was released in September 2015.

This moment was considered by important specialists in the field as “beginning of a new era in the development of quality management systems”.

GENESIS AND STRUCTURE OF THE SPECIAL ISSUE

*Beginning with April 2015, the Editor-in-Chief of the journal **Asigurarea Calității – Quality Assurance** and, at the same time, the coordinator of this special issue, Prof. **Ioan Bacivarov** contacted an important number of renowned specialists in the field in order to obtain their views and also the organizations they lead concerning the revision of ISO 9001.*

The response to this approach has been very encouraging: consequently we are happy that we can include in this special issue the views of the leaders of the main international organizations involved in the development and implementation of ISO 9001:2015, including International Organization for Standardization (ISO/TC176), International Accreditation Forum – IAF and International Certification Network – IQNet, as well as of the other top experts in the field from Europe, America and Australia.

*Achieving this special issue – whose appearance was scheduled for September 2015, simultaneously with the approval and publication of the revised standard ISO 9001:2015 – was done under severe constraints of time related to the development, review and revision of articles** (including the summer period!). Completion of articles for this special issue involved an intense activity and a proper management: hundreds of messages were exchanged between the Editor, potential authors and reviewers and all*

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** Several articles were not framed in the time constraints related to publishing this special issue; consequently, they will be published in future issues of the journal **Asigurarea Calității – Quality Assurance**, but will be considered as part of this special issue.

the problems were solved in a record time. Therefore we want to thank everyone who made this possible: authors, reviewers, and publishers.

Following are brief presentations by the Coordinating Editor about each article of this special issue, in their order of appearance.

The first three papers of this special issue present the points of view of top officials of organizations involved in the development / implementation of the revised standard ISO 9001:2015 «Quality management systems – Requirements», namely: the International Organization for Standardization – ISO (TC176/SC2), the International Accreditation Forum – IAF and the International Certification Network – IQNet.

In the opening message to this special issue, Dr. Nigel Croft, the Chairman of ISO/TC176/SC2, the ISO subcommittee responsible for ISO 9001 and ISO 9004 mentioned that – in his view – the revision of the standard ISO 9001 represents a milestone in the history of quality management and will update ISO's flagship standard to be more in line with modern business practices by a process of "significant evolution" rather than "revolution". Dr. Croft analyzed the most important improvements that were incorporated into ISO 9001:2015, too.

In the second paper of this special issue, the President of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) Mr. Randy Dougherty emphasized the unprecedented collaboration between ISO and IAF for the revision of the standard ISO 9001. He mentioned the significant changes which enhances the business value of conforming to ISO 9001:2015, too. Finally, the key points for the transition to ISO 9001:2015 – in the vision of IAF – were outlined.

In his paper, entitled "ISO 9001:2015 Edition: A Fundamental Contribution to the Most Popular Standard of All Times", Mr. Pedro Castro Alves, the Managing Director of the International Certification Network – IQNet presented a standardization and conformity assessment perspective to this standard. The author mentioned that IQNet established a documented guidance on the certificate transition according to ISO 9001:2015.

The following articles of this special issue shows the vision on the revised standard ISO 9001:2015 of some well-known experts in the field from Australia, USA and Europe.

Mr. Alex Ezrakhovich, the Head of Australian Delegation at ISO/TC176, and collaborators presented in their paper the enormous efforts made by the ISO/TC 176/SC2 in order to implement the new version of the international standard ISO 9001:2015. The new terms introduced by ISO 9001:2015 were analyzed and the main changes from DIS to FDIS were provided.

The paper of Mr. R. Dan Reid – an American expert best known as an author of ISO TS/16949 and QS-9000 a.o. – analyzed how expected revisions to ISO 9001:2015 may affect sector-specific standards.

Though ISO 9001 has deeply penetrated very specific industrial sectors and shown multiple benefits in life critical businesses, large segments of our economy have not started yet implementing good quality management practices, mentioned Mr. David Balme in his paper. The author has highlighted the fact that it is expected that the new version of ISO 9001 will provide these tailing market players with clearer requirements to re-engineer their customer relationship and adapt smoothly to market changes initiated by deregulation, technological breakthrough and change in consumption habits.

One of the key changes in the 2015 revision of ISO 9001 is to establish a systematic approach to risk; a special attention was given to the analysis of the concepts of risk and of risk-based thinking, introduced in this standard. In this context, Mr. Titu Băjenescu presented the concepts of risk and risk management and analyzed how they are used in the revised standard ISO 9001:2015.

The following papers of this special issue present some national points of view regarding the standard ISO 9001.

Dr. Dan Stoichițoiu, the President of the Romanian Society for Quality Assurance (SRAC) and one of the veterans of quality in Romania, described the manner in which the standard ISO 9001 was implemented and evolved in the past three decades in Romania.

Prof. Vidosav Majstorović provided, together with collaborators, a detailed analysis of certification in the Western Balkans Countries and Serbia, based on various aspects, for seven standardized management systems, as well as an example of certification of a Serbian enterprise based on the revised ISO 9001 standard.

Finally, Dr. Cristinel Roncea specified, from the point of view of SRAC, the key areas of ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 14001:2015 where quality management systems and environmental management systems auditors will need to focus, and the actions to be established and applied.

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Acknowledgments

This special issue has been made possible due to the contribution of numerous people involved in the domain of quality management and certification.

First of all, special thanks are due to the prestigious authors, who submitted valuable papers for this issue.

Last, but not least, we thank all the reviewers for taking time from their busy schedules in order to provide useful feedback on very short notice.

Our sincere thanks to all participants who made this special issue possible.

NOTES

Latest News

ISO9001:2015

Result of voting
P -Members voting: 75 in favour out of 75 = 100 % (requirement >= 66.66%) <i>(P -Members having abstained are not counted in this vote.)</i>
Member bodies voting: 0 negative votes out of 80 = 0 % (requirement <= 25%)
Approved

ISO9000:2015

Result of voting
P -Members voting: 56 in favour out of 58 = 97 % (requirement >= 66.66%) <i>(P -Members having abstained are not counted in this vote.)</i>
Member bodies voting: 2 negative votes out of 68 = 3 % (requirement <= 25%)
Approved

Standards will be published on the 23rd of September 2015



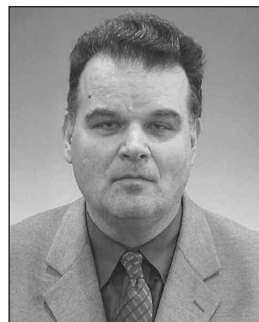
[1] In mid September 2015, when this special issue was ready for print, a news release in standardization field (<http://www.insidestandards.com/iso-9001-2015-approved/>) mentioned that:

The ISO 9001:2015 ballot has been approved. According to ASQ, who released the ballot results, there were 75 approvals, zero disapprovals, and 5 abstentions (Canada, Honduras, Kazakhstan, Luxembourg, and Qatar). (...) The release of ISO 9001:2015 is the culmination of a long review process.(...) The final International Standard version of ISO 9001:2015 is scheduled for release on September 23.

By adopting ISO 9001: 2015, a new stage in the evolution of quality management systems began.

[2] This image regarding the vote for the ISO 9000 standards was sent, when the journal was ready for print too, by Mr. **Alex Ezrakhovich**, the Head of Australian Delegation at ISO/TC176, We included it because it is a interesting document for the recent history of quality. (**I.C. Bacivarov**)

About the author



IOAN C. BACIVAROV received the MSc in Electronics and Telecommunications (1971) and the PhD in Reliability Engineering (1978). He is a full Professor at the Electronic Technology and Reliability Division of Polytechnical University of Bucharest (UPB), Romania and Director of EUROQUALROM-ETTI laboratory, both beginning with 1996.

Dr. Ioan Bacivarov was an Invited Professor at ETH Zurich, TIMA – National Polytechnical Institute Grenoble and University of Angers and a Visiting Professor at several universities from European Union – including Erasmus University Rotterdam, ENSAM Paris, University of West Scotland, INP Grenoble, Polytechnical University of Catalunya a.o. (beginning with 1992).

Prof. Ioan Bacivarov is co-founder and President of the Romanian Association for Information Security Assurance – RAISA and coordinates the *International Journal of Information Security and Cybercrime – IJISC*. He is/was a member of the Board of SRAC and RENAR and is the President of NTC 144 ASRO-IEC “Dependability”.

His teaching and research interests include quality and dependability (esp. reliability and security) engineering and management, electronic technology, and cyber-security. He has published 22 books, more than 250 papers and coordinated 45 research projects in the above areas.

He is Scientific Chairman of the *International Conference in Quality and Dependability –CCF*, organized in Romania (from 1992) and member of the Scientific Board of several international conferences in quality and dependability including *ESREL*, *MMR*, *QUALITA*, *PSAM* a.o.

Dr. Bacivarov is currently Editor-in-Chief / Editor of several international scientific journals including: *Asigurarea Calității – Quality Assurance*, *Calitatea – Acces la succes*, *Quality Engineering*, and *Forum Qualite Scientifique* and was an Editor of the journals *Optimum Q*, *Reliability Engineering & System Safety* and *Maintenance Management International* a.o.

Prof. Bacivarov contributed to the development of higher education in technical universities from Romania in the field of quality and dependability in his capacity of international coordinator of the EU educational project TEMPUS JEP 11300-96 “EUROQUALROM” and as a coordinator of the postgraduate program of UPB in the field.