

Standard Wire

Edition 1 - July 2002



THE NEW STANDARD IN NEWS & INFORMATION

For the past year, you've become accustomed to opening your inbox on the first Monday of every month to read the latest edition of Quality Wire. This month, on its first birthday, you may have noticed Quality Wire didn't arrive. Instead you found a new, unfamiliar email address in your inbox - standardwire@vintara.com.

As we highlighted in the May 2002 issue of Quality Wire, ISO-Online changed names to Vintara to encompass our expanded product offering and enable companies to build management systems based on the ISO 9000, ISO 14000, ISO 17799 and OHSAS 18001 standards. As a result, we've become more than just a company focused on quality and we want our newsletter to reflect this growth.

To mark the occasion of our newsletter's first birthday, we have launched Standard Wire -- the evolution of Quality Wire into a newsletter that provides you with news, stories and insight into a broad range of international and domestic standards. But don't panic, Quality Wire hasn't disappeared all together. The same editorial team and the same quality of editorial content have now become Standard Wire -- a newsletter that will deliver you the news and information you want on a range of quality, environmental, occupational health and safety and information security related issues.

Our readers are what shape the content we deliver and the newsletter we produce. As always, we look forward to your comments, suggestions and contributions to the new Standard Wire. Happy reading!

IN THIS ISSUE

TOP OF THE LIST

Immediate past ISO Vice-President, Mr. Akira Aoki, receives prestigious Japanese decoration

STANDARD NEWS

- *Train the E-Learning Way*
- *ISO Publishes Advice for the SME on Implementing ISO 9001:2000*
- *EPA Administrator Highlights Importance of Meteorologists In Sharing Environmental Information with Public*
- *Consumers and the Environment Benefit from New Air Conditioning Standard*

DID YOU KNOW?

EPA Releases Position Statement in Support of ISO 14001, EMSs

HOW TO...

The Global Marketplace and CE Marking

Newsletter Sponsor



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Here are some of the documents we have to help you Get The Most out of Management Systems registration available to download at: <http://www.bsiamericas.com/getthemost>

ISO 9000

- What is ISO 9001:2000?
- Glossary of ISO 9000 Terms
- 10 Top Tips for Transition to ISO 9001:2000
- 10 Tips for Selection and Use of a QMS Consultant
- Transition to ISO 9001:2000 the BSI way
- 10 Tips for Internal Auditing

QS-9000 and ISO/TS 16949

Comparison Matrix of QS-9000 and ISO/TS 16949

OHSAS 18001

Case Study of the Benefits of OHSAS 18001

ISO 14001

What is ISO 14001?

TOP OF THE LIST

Immediate Past ISO Vice-President, Mr. Akira Aoki, receives prestigious Japanese decoration

Mr. Akira Aoki, immediate past Vice-President (policy) of ISO, has been awarded a prestigious decoration, the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon, by the Government of Japan. On 29 April 2002, Mr. Aoki received this decoration, one of the very highest among Japanese awards, in recognition of his lifetime's services, and specifically his contribution to ISO activities, including his tenure as ISO Vice-President (policy) for the 1998-1999 term and subsequent re-appointment for the 2000-2001 term. Mr. and Mrs. Aoki had the honour of being granted an audience with His Majesty the Emperor of Japan on 9 May 2002.

"This is the first time that anyone involved in international standardization in Japan has received such a high-level decoration, and JISC, ISO member for Japan, regards this as another example of growing importance of ISO and ISO activities for Japan and the international community," says Mr. Masahiro Hashimoto, Director for International Affairs of Technical Regulations, Standards and Conformity Assessment Policy, at JISC.

Read full article: <http://www.iso.org/iso/en/commcentre/news/mraoki.html>

STANDARD NEWS

ENVIRONMENTAL

EPA Administrator Highlights Importance of Meteorologists In Sharing Environmental Information with Public

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christie Whitman today spoke to meteorologists from around the nation about the important role they can play in bringing environmental information to their audience. Whitman spoke as part of the "Eyes on the Environment" workshop being presented to weathercasters as part of the American Meteorological Society's 31st Conference on Broadcast Meteorology.

"We know that the Americans trust you as a source of credible information. We also know you have the experience and the tools to make science real and accessible to people in just a minute or two, day in and day out," Whitman told attendees. "My long range forecast for this effort is simple: together, we will help people everywhere better understand what a watershed is and how important sensible watershed management is to meeting the water challenges we face in the years ahead."

Read full article: http://www.epa.gov/epahome/headline2_062602.htm

Consumers and the Environment Benefit from New Air Conditioning Standard

In an effort to help consumers save millions on operating costs while conserving energy, the Department of Energy (DOE) recently passed a revised standard that would increase the minimum efficiency for residential central air conditioners and heat pumps by 20 percent.

According to the DOE, the amended standard takes into consideration all the technological advancements of the past decade and will save consumers and the nation money, significant amounts of energy and have substantial environmental benefits.

The new standard, which will increase the Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER), a measurement of air conditioner efficiency, from 10 SEER to 12 SEER, is expected to "save approximately 3 quads of energy over 25 years," or roughly the same amount of energy consumed by nearly 17 million American households together in any given year.

Read full article:

http://www.ansi.org/news_publications/news_story.aspx?menuid=7&articleid=201

QUALITY

Train the E-Learning Way

Electronic Learning, or e-learning, simply refers to training sessions or educational courses delivered electronically. It could be courses delivered through a CD-ROM, for example, or it could involve a live "virtual classroom," facilitated by a teacher interacting with students via the Internet or a satellite feed. Today, however, e-learning is increasingly associated with Web-based courseware-educational courses that are developed in advance and then delivered via the Internet—enabling users to take courses at their own pace, at any time of day or night.

Why e-learning?

It is sometimes difficult to select the right format to deliver learning initiatives to an audience. Here are a few guidelines for choosing Web-based e-learning as the mode of training delivery. Consider e-learning if:

- The target audience is large enough to justify the initial expense needed to create materials that will not require an instructor. As a general rule, an e-learning target audience should be at least 200 people.
- The target audience is geographically dispersed with varied work schedules.
- The content lends itself to knowledge, comprehension, understanding and application.
- Consistency of delivery is of paramount importance -- introducing variables increases costs.
- Some of the above conditions exist and there is a desire for fast delivery and low costs.

Read full article:

<http://www.qualitymag.com/execute-vSection-Articles-vSub-Detail-vSidebar-Active-vrID-CD7FB6CDCC7C408AB92F4224D8F6CD58-vDate-572021E09A3F4B66A97B6CF79D462476.htm>

ISO Publishes Advice for the SME on Implementing ISO 9001:2000

A completely revised second edition has just been published of the ISO handbook that gives small and medium-sized enterprises (SME's) advice on implementing ISO 9000-based quality management systems.

ISO 9001 for Small Businesses has been updated to align the advice with ISO 9001:2000, the single standard which has replaced the 1994 versions of ISO 9001, ISO 9002 and ISO 9003. The new standard defines the requirements for a quality management system based on "the process model" and aimed at achieving customer satisfaction and continual improvement in performance. The handbook explains the standard in plain language, giving examples to illustrate its application.

Read full article:

<http://www.iso.org/iso/en/commcentre/pressreleases/2002/Ref827.html>

DID YOU KNOW?

EPA Releases Position Statement in Support of ISO 14001, EMSs

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) earlier this month released a new position statement on environmental management systems that specifically pledges agency support of ISO 14001. "EPA will encourage the use of recognized environmental management frameworks, such as the ISO 14001 standard, as a basis for designing and implementing EMSs that aim to achieve outcomes aligned with the nation's environmental policy goals and the principles of this Position Statement," according to the document, which was signed by Administrator Christine Todd Whitman.

Courtesy of The Environmental Management Report

<http://www.gsouonline.com/>

HOW TO...

The Global Marketplace and CE Marking

If You Want to Sell to Europe, Here's What You Need to Know

To compete in today's global marketplace, U.S. manufacturers are beginning to export more goods to Europe. Before doing so, however, many companies must obtain CE marking, which allows them to move their products freely throughout the European Economic Area. CE marking is required on products that fall within the scope of any of the European Union's 29 New Approach Directives.

"CE" is an abbreviation of the French phrase "Conformité Européenne." CE marking on a product is the manufacturer's assertion that the product complies with the essential/safety requirements of relevant European regulations.

In 1985 the European Union changed its approach toward certification and standards compliance by introducing the New Approach Directives. These established essential requirements and performance levels for specific products. The directives also established "harmonized standards" to which a product must comply and set procedures for assessing products' conformity to relevant essential requirements. The following overview of CE marking covers these requirements in more detail.

Read full article:

http://www.qualitydigest.com/july02/articles/04_article.shtml



Vintara is the leading provider of Web-based process management solutions and services. Founded in 1997, Vintara has a proven track record of helping the enterprise successfully prepare for and cost-effectively maintain compliance with a range of domestic and internationally recognized standards. Our customers come from a variety of industries, with a diverse range of needs. In every case, Vintara has created solutions that meet and exceed their growing business needs.

Combining innovative technology with training and consulting services, our brands – ISO9, ISO14, ISO17 and OHS18 – deliver the solutions that help the enterprise manage their key business processes setting the path to continual improvement.

For more information on Vintara, click on the URL: www.vintara.com

FEEDBACK

Is there something we're missing that you'd like to see in a future edition? We'd love to hear from you. Let us know what you think about Standard Wire by writing us at standardwire@vintara.com. Visit us today at www.vintara.com or call 1.866.321.4769 for more information.

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CONTACT

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- Send news items to pr@vintara.com
- Send questions, complaints or service queries to info@vintara.com
- Send advertising inquiries to info@vintara.com