

Standard Wire

Edition 8 - March 2003



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President's 2004 Budget Request Strengthens Base Environmental Programs and Fosters Stronger Environmental Partnerships

Pledging a strengthened focus on cleaner air, purer water and better protected land, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Christie Whitman has announced President Bush's proposed Fiscal Year 2004 budget request of \$7.63 billion to support EPA's mission of protecting human health and the environment. The budget strengthens EPA's base programs for air, water and land and fosters strong partnerships to achieve environmental goals. The request also soundly supports these important efforts through the use of strong science.

The budget request is a \$10 million increase from last year's request and includes a seven percent, or \$280 million, increase over the previous budget request to strengthen the Agency's core operating programs for air, water, land and enforcement activities.

Read more: http://www.epa.gov/newsroom/headline2_020303.htm

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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?

CONSULTANT CORNER

The Proof is in the Records an editorial by Dawn Plaskon, Senior Quality Manager, Vintara

Regardless of whether an audit is internal or external, evidence that an area is compliant with defined requirements is provided through a combination of observation and records. Observing the practical application of defined requirements by area personnel allows the auditor to see that the requirements are being followed at the time of observation. A review of the records maintained to document the completion and results of a process provide a historical record of ongoing compliance with defined requirements.

When an organization seeks to achieve compliance with a selected management system standard, records comprise one of the elements defined as part of the management system implementation. The organization reviews its processes and procedures to determine the records required to ensure that a historical record of completed activity is maintained. The list of required records is incorporated into the management system requirements together with requirements for storing, accessing, archiving and preserving the records.

The ongoing records for a specific process can help to identify anomalous results within the execution of that process. When a significant variation of normal or expected results is identified, past records can be used as a source when documenting the need for corrective or preventive action. In addition, these records become a primary source of material when investigating the cause of reported process or material nonconformities. Finally, an auditor will review a selection of the required records for an area being audited to determine that defined requirements are followed each and every time.

In summary, without good records of past activities, it is difficult, if not impossible, for any organization to maintain and prove compliance with its requirements, investigate material and process failures, or identify weaknesses in its operations.

STANDARD NEWS

E.NEWS – ENVIRONMENTAL

Going Green

A step-by-step guide to ISO 14001 compliance

Customers' and suppliers' increased awareness of environmental issues is spurring process industries and other manufacturers throughout the world to look for the best ways to integrate environmental management systems into their day-to-day operations.

Bringing an EMS into the mainstream right alongside other management systems helps businesses meet their customers' needs, which, in turn, helps them achieve their own financial goals. Integrating the EMS into daily operations also helps to elevate the level of consciousness within a business's workforce relative to environmental costs and impacts, often overlooked because they're difficult to quantify.

Read full article:

http://www.qualitydigest.com/currentmag/articles/03_article.shtml

Q.NEWS – QUALITY

ISO Quality Standard Provides Corporations with Substantial Financial Rewards

U.S. publicly held companies traded on the New York Stock Exchange that receive certification under the International Standards Organization's 9000 quality standard show significant improvement in financial performance compared to those companies that have not pursued the standard, according to researchers. In analyzing the impact of ISO 9000 certification on publicly traded firms, researchers from UCLA, the University of Maryland and the Universidad Carlos III in Madrid, found that there is a direct correlation with a firm's return on assets.

"When we began this research in 1997, we were very skeptical and we were shocked by the magnitude of the effects," says David Kirsch of the University of Maryland R.H. Smith School of Business. "The differences are significant."

Read the full article:

<http://www.manufacturingnews.com/news/02/0830/art1.html>

IS.NEWS – INFORMATION SECURITY

Trustworthy Yet?

Microsoft is making significant strides to clean up its security mess, but Trustworthy Computing still has a long way to go.

Microsoft's Mike Nash knows it's his ass if hackers make Swiss cheese of the forthcoming Windows Server 2003 and other future products. "A significant portion of that fleshy area will be gone," he jokes.

Handpicked to head up the newly created Security Business Unit (SBU), Nash is ultimately responsible for ensuring the success of Trustworthy Computing, Microsoft's massive campaign to secure its existing software and harden future releases.

"The vision of Trustworthy Computing is to deliver the same level of trust in our software as a public utility," says Nash, who has spent much of his nine years at Microsoft as a Windows marketing executive. "If you think about the service of a modern utility, you know you can depend on it. People's dependency on software is becoming like a modern utility and requires the same level of trustworthiness."

Read the full article:

<http://www.infosecuritymag.com/2003/feb/cover.shtml>

OHS.NEWS – OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY

Winter Woes!

Be aware that certain workers are at increased risk for a cold injury.

It was one of the coldest, snowiest Decembers that Scott Knowlen could remember. Even after 40 years enduring Maine's heavy snowfall and average winter temperatures of around 20 degrees, the then-site safety specialist was not prepared for the 90 inches of snow this month would bring.

Working within strict time constraints, Knowlen's crew found itself trying to pour a concrete slab for a client in very harsh conditions. After overcoming the obstacle of curing the concrete in the cold temperatures, Knowlen was soon knee-deep in snow and faced with a fall hazard created by slick walking surfaces. "At times we had to stop all work and put all hands on the job to clearing snow from the walkways and work areas," Knowlen said. "On a job where time is so critical, a move like this could have cost us a lot of money. But, in the end, it was probably profitable because we were making it easier and safer for everyone to do their work."

Read more:

<http://www.stevenspublishing.com/Stevens/OHSPub.nsf/frame?open&redirect=http://www.stevenspublishing.com/Stevens/OHSPub.Nsf/f4ba66bad665a1098625670c00725833/317e07a4f1bc442386256cbc005b44c6?OpenDocument>

DID YOU KNOW?

New ISO Standard Has 007 in its Sights

From the latest James Bond to classics like Gone with the Wind, every film in the world can now have its own unique "fingerprint", thanks to a new International Standard.

Published by ISO (International Organization for Standardization), ISO 15706, Information and documentation - International Standard Audiovisual Number (ISAN), provides a system for assigning a unique international identification code not only to films, but to every piece of audiovisual work, from commercials to newscasts to episodes of

individual television series. The use of the code is expected to assist in the allocation of royalties, information retrieval and anti-piracy purposes as well as to help track the use of the audiovisual work throughout its life.

Read more:

<http://www.iso.ch/iso/en/commcentre/pressreleases/2003/Ref842.html?printable=true>

HOW TO...

Talk the Talk, Walk the Walk

Five tips to win friends and influence C-level execs in your organization.

You're an IT/Infosec person. You've probably been interested in computers since mom or dad taught you to play the ABC game on the keyboard. You walk the walk and talk the talk, from routers and switches to firewalls and AV.

But that's not the talk that wins approval for budget increases and new projects. Your briefings are peppered with TLAs that prompt executives to glance at their watches, smile and thank you for your input. From the COO to unit managers, you're "the security guy."

Read the full article:

<http://www.infosecuritymag.com/2003/feb/talkthetalk.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

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