

## 1. 'Natural' should mean Natural

Consumers International's (CI) German Members, Federation of German Consumer Organisations (VZBV) and DIN Consumer Council, are challenging a new food standard to ensure that consumers are not misled by false claims of 'natural' ingredients.

The two organisations claim the current draft standard is so broad that highly processed or even genetically modified food could be labelled natural. This, according to them, is a clear breach of consumer trust, which is why VZBV and DIN Consumer Council are pushing for high requirements for a product to be deemed natural.

The draft of standard ISO/DIS 19657 'Definitions and technical criteria for food ingredients to be considered as natural' can be accessed via the ISO website.

[www.consumersinternational.org/news-and-media/news/2016/08/%E2%80%98natural%E2%80%99-should-mean-natural/](http://www.consumersinternational.org/news-and-media/news/2016/08/%E2%80%98natural%E2%80%99-should-mean-natural/)



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## 2. CI Secures International Standard on Energy Access

A standard on access to energy has just been approved by ISO – the first time that a Standard proposed by a non-governmental organisation (NGO) – CI in this case – has become an ISO International Standard.



The standard sets a new precedent, moving away from a seller/buyer relationship between companies and consumers where the objective is to sell as much energy as possible, to one of advisor/user. Energy companies now need to give advice about conserving energy and improving efficiency, in order to sell less energy where possible for the same level of use and comfort.

CI has worked on similar standards in the past and has seen how successful they can be. It is now hoped that the major energy providers and governments around the world

would quickly adopt and implement this standard so a better deal for consumers spread across the globe could be achieved.

[www.consumersinternational.org/news-and-media/news/2016/08/standard\\_on\\_energy\\_access/](http://www.consumersinternational.org/news-and-media/news/2016/08/standard_on_energy_access/)

### 3. Vietnam to Probe Mass-produced Fish Sauce

Vietnam's Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc has ordered the Ministry of Health (MoH) and Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT) to check the quality of popular fish sauce products in Vietnam, after a news report said that a large number of chemicals are being used by the industry. The ministries are expected to submit a report on their findings soon, according to a directive posted on the government's news portal.

Earlier, an article in Thanh Nien newspaper said 17 chemical additives, including flavour enhancers, coloring agents and preservatives, were found in the popular fish sauce Nam Ngu. According to the report, Nam Ngu and another brand, Chin-Su, do not disclose exactly how much of their sauce really comes from fish. Both brands are produced by Masan Consumer Corporation, a company based in Ho Chi Minh City.

<https://m.talkvietnam.org/2016/10/vietnam-to-probe-mass-produced-fish-sauce-amid-new-food-safety-scare/>



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### 4. Mobile Phone Standardisation Certificate to Be Phased Out

Indonesia's Communications and Information Technology Minister Rudiantara said he planned to phase out the certification requirement for international brand mobile phones in January 2017 to speed up the availability of the latest technology, in a bid to boost the country's economy.



All new mobile phones manufactured by international companies have to undergo a government standardisation test process of about one month in local test labs before they can be made available for sale to the public. The rule is stipulated under the Telecommunication Law of 1999 of Indonesia.

These mobile phones have to meet government standards related to interconnectivity and also be tested for potential interference with other telecommunication devices.

Rudiantara said in order to protect consumers, his Ministry will also cooperate with the Ministry of Trade to conduct post-market surveillance. The plan has also been discussed with local manufacturers and the Communications Ministry will conduct a design test for local products.

<http://jakartaglobe.id/business/mobile-phone-standardization-certificate-phased-minister/>

## 5. ICAO Stresses Importance of Civil Aviation Standards to Safety

The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)'s development and implementation of global standards has fostered the development of safe and sustainable aviation since the UN agency was created, declared Dr. Fang Liu, ICAO's Secretary General, at the General Assembly of the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO).



Over 12,000 Standards and Recommended Practices have now been appended to the 19 annexes of the Convention on International Civil Aviation, upon which ICAO is founded. All of these have been developed and adopted on the basis of intensive cooperation and consensus amongst ICAO's member States, of which there are currently 191. They cover every international aspect of the industry: capacity and efficiency, security and facilitation, economic development, environmental impact, and of course safety, which is

always the first priority in aviation.

The Secretary General highlighted that these contributions to socio-economic development will be critical to the achievement of the United Nation's Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), noting that 13 of the 17 SDGs are directly supported by ICAO's Strategic Objectives.

[www.traveldailymedia.com/241401/icao-stresses-importance-of-civil-aviation-standards-to-safety/](http://www.traveldailymedia.com/241401/icao-stresses-importance-of-civil-aviation-standards-to-safety/)

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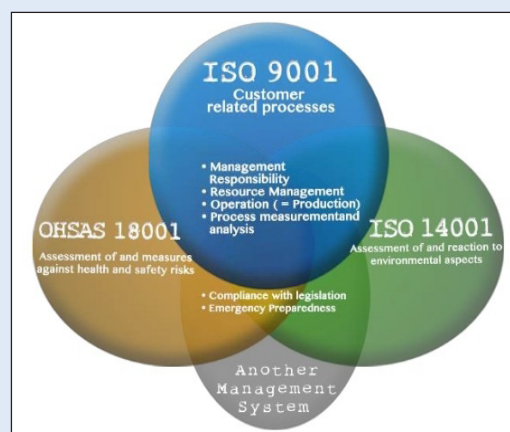
## 6. What is an Integrated Management System?

An integrated management system (IMS) combines multiple management system standards to which an organisation is registered. The management systems are developed, implemented, and maintained via one system with processes that cover each standard's requirements.

Planning and developing an IMS must include identifying risks and opportunities that could affect the organisation, including its business and quality risks, in addition to those relating to health and safety and environmental obligations. Some areas may integrate more easily than others, and as such, systems may end up being fully integrated or partially integrated.

According to ISO, "a management system describes the set of procedures an organisation needs to follow in order to meet its objectives." An IMS enables an organisation to monitor, measure, and evaluate its effectiveness in meeting its objectives by adopting a process approach. The process approach allows top management to address all elements of the management system rather than looking at individual standards, clauses, activities, or requirements separately.

The high-level structural alignment of the ISO standards facilitates the integration of multiple management systems. This structural alignment is also expected to be present in ISO 45001 (the migration document for OHSAS 18001) with its planned publication in 2017.



### Integrated management systems and Annex SL

Most management system standards, including ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015, AS9100:2016 (aerospace), TL 9000 Rev. 6 (telecommunications), and IATF 16949:2016 (developed by the International Automotive Task Force and replaced ISO/TS 16949), adopted the Annex SL framework. Annex SL, developed by ISO, is an underlying framework designed to provide a standardised and consistent approach to implementation, ongoing maintenance, and continual improvement of a management system. You might think of it as an ISO standard for ISO standards. This standardised and consistent framework enables and facilitates organisations to effectively integrate their separate management systems by using a standard template. Used effectively, Annex SL can reduce the level of bureaucracy and amount of resources needed.



### **The business benefits of an IMS**

Where an IMS has been effectively implemented into an organisation's business strategy and direction, it enables top management to ensure effective leadership and commitment while reducing the amount of duplication activities and therefore time spent reviewing. This allows cost savings through the efficient use of resources at all levels and functions throughout the organisation. An IMS further enables organisations to fully understand their business context and stakeholder obligations and requirements within each specific sector, highlighting regular risks and opportunities.

A robust IMS enables the organisation to identify potential improvements across all of its parameters by providing a holistic view of the entire business (e.g., quality, environmental, and health and safety) compared to that achieved under individual management systems.

### **What are the benefits from a certification perspective?**

The implementation of an IMS has the potential to reduce the duration of an external audit compared to separate audits being conducted for each registration. This is due to the focus on integrating common processes and requirements as mentioned earlier. Your assessor is therefore able to audit against multiple standard requirements while reviewing one particular process or policy; this makes the audit process much more efficient. By reducing the duration of an audit, you will therefore reduce both the internal and external costs associated with the audit as well as minimising disruption for staff throughout the audit period.

### **An assessor's thoughts on integrated management systems**

Implementing an IMS is a positive move for organisations compared with operating co-joined management systems. Not only does it align with new ISO standards, but it also highlights an organisation's continual improvement and maturity. It leads to a more efficient process for third-party auditors and internal auditors due to the consistency and structure of the IMS. Assessors have also found that an organisation with an IMS typically has a better understanding of its business objectives in regard to strategies, opportunities, risks, and improvement areas.

[www.qualitydigest.com/inside/iso/102616-what-integrated-management-system.html](http://www.qualitydigest.com/inside/iso/102616-what-integrated-management-system.html)

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## **7. ASEAN Ensures Standard and Quality of Prepared Food**

Foodborne diseases can hamper socio-economic development by draining the healthcare systems and harming national economies, tourism and trade. To enhance food safety in the region, ASEAN organised the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of ASEAN Consultative Committee on Standards and Quality Prepared Foodstuff Product Working Group at the ASEAN Secretariat on November 10-11, 2016.

During the two-day meeting, the working group finalised the ASEAN principles and criteria to establish the maximum level for contaminants and toxins in food and feed which will be the basis in developing the same document on food contaminants.

They also initiated the development of ASEAN Common Food Control Requirements on Food Contact Materials and affirmed that it would continue to monitor the activities of ASEAN Food Reference Laboratories.

Further, the working group finalised the draft of the mutual recognition arrangement on Inspection and Certification System for Food Hygiene which is targeted to be endorsed in 2017.

<http://asean.org/asean-ensures-standard-and-quality-of-prepared-food/>



## 8. Guidance for SMEs Using ISO 9001 for Quality Management

ISO's essential guide for SME's wishing to implement a quality management system (QMS) has just been updated, providing practical advice and concrete examples tailored specifically for small businesses.

*ISO 9001:2015 for Small Enterprises – What to do?* has just been updated to align with the newly revised version of one of ISO's most popular standards, ISO 9001, *Quality management systems – Requirements*, updated in 2015.

The handbook was written by a group of experts from ISO/TC 176/SC 2, the technical subcommittee that developed ISO 9001:2015, and features useful information on everything from how to get started right through to guidance for those who choose to seek certification. It includes practical advice on the different ways of approaching a QMS as well as detailed guidance on each element of ISO 9001:2015.

*ISO 9001:2015 for Small Enterprises – What to do?* also provides a clear explanation of what a QMS is and how it can help organisations improve the quality of the work they do and the products and services they deliver, thereby improving the confidence of their customers and other stakeholders.

[www.iso.org/iso/home/news\\_index/news\\_archive/news.htm?refid=Ref2138](http://www.iso.org/iso/home/news_index/news_archive/news.htm?refid=Ref2138)



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## 9. New ISO Specification for Animal Welfare

Protecting an animal's welfare means providing for its physical and mental needs. The farming of animals is no longer just seen as a means of food production but as an ethical concern.

Consumers are increasingly concerned about the treatment of animals and the well-being of farmed animals is strongly associated with the quality, and even the safety, of food. As consumer awareness of animal welfare issues continues to rise, the demand for products complying with animal welfare standards is growing, giving producers who maintain these high standards a competitive advantage.

Likewise, the food industry is taking more action to better implement animal welfare management. The new ISO technical specification ISO/TS 34700:2016, *Animal welfare management – General requirements and guidance for organisations in the food supply chain*, will help the food and feed industry to develop an animal welfare plan that is aligned with the principles of the World Organisation



of Animal Health (OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code (TAHC)\* and ensure the welfare of farm animals across the supply chain.

ISO/TS 34700 will serve as a helpful tool for the private sector and competent authorities alike to clear up discrepancies in the regulatory framework, especially in developing countries facilitating public-private partnerships for animal welfare policy.

During the development of ISO/TS 34700, special attention was paid to the needs of small companies that make up most of the business operators involved in the animal food supply chain (family farms, small transport companies, small slaughterhouses...). But the document will also act as an international reference for companies involved in the trade of animal products.

Other parties, such as retailers, consumers and NGOs with an interest in animal welfare protection, will be indirect beneficiaries of ISO/TS 34700 as business operators begin to demonstrate their appreciation and commitment for animal health and welfare.

As with all ISO technical specifications, ISO/TS 34700 will undergo its normal systematic review in three years' time and feedback will need to be organised.

[www.iso.org/iso/home/news.htm?refid=Ref2147](http://www.iso.org/iso/home/news.htm?refid=Ref2147)

## 10. Standardisation of Supply Chain Equipment 'Vital'

China needs to speed up the way its supply chain is being standardised if the efficiency of logistics is to be improved and costs reduced, said the head of a leading US logistics company.

Slowing economic growth in China makes efficiency more necessary than ever, said Peter Mackie, group president of Chep Pallets, a logistics solutions company specialising in the management of standardised unit-load equipment.

The lack of a standard means goods need to be handled manually as they move from one type of supply chain to another. But over the next few decades, China faces a shortage of labour; therefore, the performance of the supply chain would likely deteriorate if standardisation is not realised soon, he said.

Chep has been working with the research institute of the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, part of the Ministry of Commerce, since 2014, to help speed up the development of standards for pallets, vehicles, facilities and other equipment. The goal is to build standardised and more efficient supply chain management.

Chep and CAITEC are running about 30 pilot programs in China that are subsidised by the Central Government. The Ministry has also adopted standards based on their research, such as declaring '1.2 meter x 1 meter' as the national standard pallet size last year.

Supply chains worldwide are wrestling with changing consumer behaviour, and in some ways Chinese consumer behaviour is unique, he said.

One aspect is the growth of e-commerce, forecast to be about 10 times bigger than the second-largest market -- the UK, by 2020. In China, about 8 percent of grocery consumptions happen online, while in Germany such spending accounts for only about half a percent of the total grocery market.

The supply chain is also affected by the growing number of people living in cities. In a dense urban environment, they will be doing their shopping in a different way compared with those living in rural areas.

[www.chinadaily.com.cn/bizchina/2016-12/12/content\\_27639053.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/bizchina/2016-12/12/content_27639053.htm)

