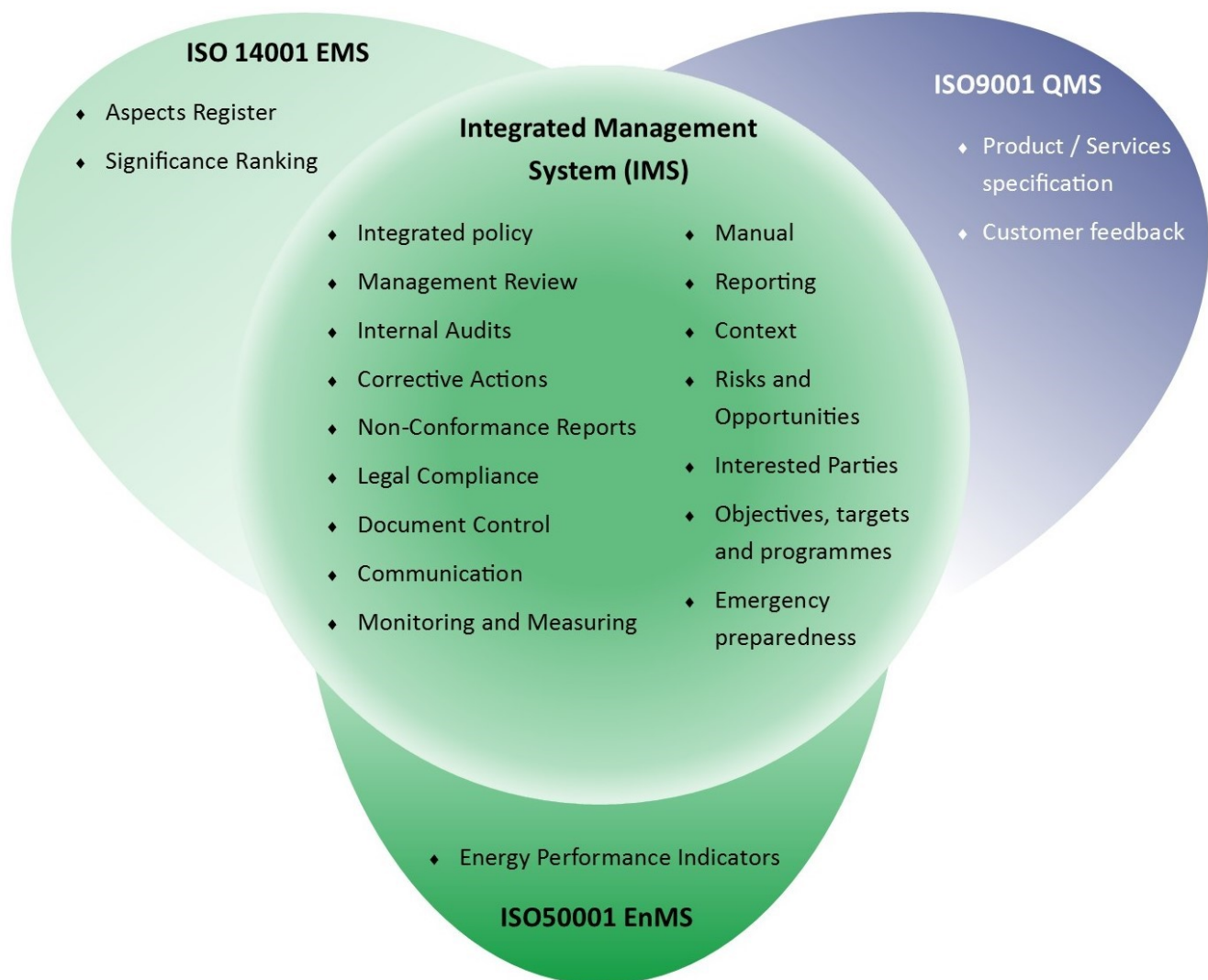


Introduction

The ISO Standards 14001; 9001; and 50001 are designed to be fully integrated into your business processes. They are also designed to be combined together to create one overall Integrated Management System (IMS) that does the job of all the standards. In recent updates to the standards the clauses have been closely linked to enable more effective combination of the different systems. If your business already has one or more of the ISO standards then you are able to readily integrate a further system into the existing structure.

How do the standards integrate?



There are many areas of overlap between the three standards shown here. Other standards can also be integrated, for example health and safety. There will be one integrated manual that acts as a signpost document to all the relevant procedures, templates, reports, registers etc. that are required by each of the standards. How the manual is presented will be unique to each business as it is bespoke for your organisation. Each organisation is different and the manual will work in different ways but so long as it covers all the areas of the ISO Standards and references all the relevant documents then it will be suitable for certification.

How to get started

The first step to implementing an integrated management system is to establish your baseline situation through a gap analysis. This will look at your business context, interested parties, current business practices, activities and services, compliance requirements and many other areas of your business. Once your current position is established then an bespoke action plan for implementation can be created.



Regardless of the type of management system being put in place it is vital for top management to have involvement throughout the process. The IMS will be integrating with established business processes and contribute to the strategic plan for the organisation so it is vital for top management to be involved. They are responsible for ensuring that the appropriate resources, personnel and time is available for implementing and maintaining the management systems as it is a strategic advantage to have the IMS in operation within the business.

Communication within the business is key to the success of an IMS due to the wide spread of personnel involved in monitoring, measuring, auditing and managing the systems.

Certification

Certification to all the ISO standards can be achieved through a certification body accredited by UKAS (www.ukas.com). Once certified your organisation can display the certificate and logo on marketing materials to demonstrate your commitment to environmental, quality or energy management to customers and other interested parties.

If you would like to know more contact GEP Environmental and speak to one of our consultants.