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Introduction to the ISO 9001 Auditing Practices Group

The ISO 9001 Auditing Practices Group, ISO 9001 APG, is an informal group of quality management system (QMS) experts, auditors and practitioners drawn from the ISO Technical Committee 176 Quality Management and Quality Assurance (ISO/TC 176) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF).

ISO 9001 APG was founded in 2003 to provide practical advice, examples and technical expertise by its group members, on how to plan, conduct and report audit results. These are proposed by ISO 9001 group members to share knowledge on specific issues or are initiated to address requests related to perceived needs for clarification on audit practices for a specific subject.

The aim of the papers is to contribute to the understanding, consistency and relevance of the audit process. The outcomes are recommendations and examples of audit practices on auditing ISO 9001, the auditing process itself or generic related issues; with due consideration of the process approach and risk-based thinking. The outcomes may also address other standards and documents developed by ISO TC176, ISO CASCO and IAF.

The papers are primarily aimed to QMS auditors. They may be of interest to other interested parties, such as accreditation body assessors, quality and audit program managers, consultants, training providers and other practitioners.

Guidance on the papers is not definitive. They reflect different views in QMS auditing influenced by different audit contexts and circumstances of the time when they were developed. As such, their content may not always be consistent. It is not intended that the guidance will be used as specified requirements, industry benchmark, or criteria that all QMS auditors, consultants or practitioners should follow.

Please access our websites at [ISO 9001 Auditing Practices Group](http://www.iso.org/committees/tc176/iso-9001-auditing-practices-group), or at [Accreditation and Assessment Practices - IAF](http://www.iaf.nu/assessment-practices), where you can find information about ISO 9001 Auditing Practices Groups, download Introduction, the other ISO 9001 APG and AAPG papers. Feedback from users is welcomed by APG/AAPG and will be used to determine the need for additional guidance documents, as well as for the revision of the current ones.

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