

ISO 26000 Guide



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With customers and consumers increasingly looking to work with more responsible companies, more companies are implementing social responsibility strategies. ISO 26000 is one such social responsibility strategy that can help your business.

So what is it?



ISO 26000 is a voluntary set of guidelines, not a certified standard. It gives a global understanding of what is required to embed social responsibility for your business.

As well as outlining the principles of social responsibility and the importance of stakeholder engagement, the guidance is comprised of seven elements: Organisational Governance, Human Rights, Community Involvement and Development, Fair Operating Practices, The Environment, Labour Practices and Consumer Issues.



The seven core subjects covered by ISO 26000

How an organisation relates to society and its impact on the environment is a critical part of how the overall performance of a business is assessed. ISO 26000 is a powerful tool to help businesses move from good intentions to good actions and manage their triple bottom line - their economic, social and environmental performance.



Benefits

Using ISO 26000

Guidance as guidelines for implementing sustainable practices in your business encourages you to go that extra mile beyond legal compliance. You can of course do this without ISO 26000 but the standard provides useful, comprehensive, well thought out guidance.

It is only guidance – some of it will be relevant to your business, other parts won't and that's ok, Use it as a guide to establish what you want your business to do to fulfil your social responsibility. Your customers will thank you for it, your employees will thank you for it, your suppliers will thank you for it and the community that you operate in will thank you for it.

It encourages you to think about the key concepts and subjects of social responsibility, in particular how to engage with your stakeholders.

How to implement ISO 26000

ISO 26000 can be implemented whether your business has a sustainability programme or not. If you already have a sustainability programme, great – ISO 26000 can be aligned to your current programme and help you identify any gaps.

If you don't have a sustainability programme in place, then this could be exactly what you are looking for. ISO 26000 can encourage you to think more sustainably and to think outside the box. It also acts a checklist, to help you identify the most material issues for you business, what you want to achieve and what the benefits will be.

Remember – leadership is essential. Corporate Responsibility and sustainability are not add-ons – they are strategic approaches that must be incorporated in to the heart of the business, in its mission and in its vision. activities.

If businesses can get their heads around ISO 26000, their teeth stuck in to it and give it their full support – then ISO 26000 will truly make a difference to the way your business conducts itself in its social responsibility

The benefits of using ISO 26000 are the same as implementing any sustainability strategy – enhanced reputation, competitive advantage, ability to attract new customers, employee morale, improved relations with stakeholders – but this comes with the added credibility of those three letters “ISO”.

Contacts us

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