



International Organization for Standardization

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The facts about certification

Certification can be a useful tool to add credibility, by demonstrating that your product or service meets the expectations of your customers. For some industries, certification is a legal or contractual requirement.

ISO does not perform certification

At ISO, we **develop** International Standards, such as ISO 9001 and ISO 14001, but we are not involved in their certification, and do not issue certificates. This is performed by external certification bodies, thus a company or organization cannot be certified **by** ISO.

However ISO's Committee on Conformity Assessment (CASCO) has produced a number of standards related to the certification process, which are used by certification bodies. Read more about CASCO Standards.

Displaying your certificate

Remember, when labelling a product or system as certified to an ISO standard:

Don't say: "ISO certified" or "ISO certification"

DO say: "ISO 9001:2015 certified" or "ISO 9001:2015 certification" (for example).

Can I use the ISO logo?

The ISO logo is a registered trademark and cannot be used by anyone outside of ISO, unless authorised.

If you wish to use a logo to demonstrate certification, contact the certification body that issued the certificate.

Certification – the provision by an independent body of written assurance (a certificate) that the product, service or system in question meets specific requirements.

Accreditation – the formal recognition by an independent body, generally known as an accreditation body, that a certification body operates according to international standards.

Find out how many certificates to ISO management standards are awarded in each country, each year.



Use guidelines: ISO's logo and short name

For all others except ISO members and ISO technical committees (TCs), here are some non-exhaustive guidelines to help you avoid misusing ISO's trademarks. (ISO members and ISO TCs may use ISO's trademarks according to ISO Policies).

ISO logo

- Don't use or copy the ISO logo.
- Don't modify or change the ISO logo.
- Don't use a modified or changed ISO logo.



ISO short name

- Don't register "ISO" as, or in, your domain name, website, or company name, e.g. www.isodatabase.com.
- Don't use "ISO" as, or in, your product or service name.
- Don't say that you, your products or your services are endorsed, approved or certified by ISO. (Remember, ISO doesn't perform certifications.)



- Do refer to ISO or the International Organization for Standardization in a fair and appropriate way.
- Do refer to ISO standards with their full reference, e.g., "ISO 9001:2015".

See Certification for more details.