

# Technical Auditing and Assessment

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## The context

From multi-national companies with complex international supply chains to smaller businesses facing increasing manufacturing costs, more companies are looking to lower-cost vendors in countries with less developed quality, sourcing, manufacturing and delivery processes. This requires companies to maintain consistent, acceptable standards while working with a range of vendors across a variety of territories.

## The challenge

Companies want to know, before placing an order, that their chosen manufacturer has the necessary infrastructure, systems, processes and capabilities to fulfil it. They also need to ensure that local and international standards of quality and safety are consistently maintained across all of their international vendors, and throughout the manufacturing and delivery process.

Ideally every link in the supply chain should have Quality Management Systems (QMS) compliant with the necessary standards such as ISO and API (American Petroleum Institute). In reality this is unlikely, and in many cases smaller companies may lack the resources to implement and maintain the required quality and safety standards themselves.

## Our service

We can help you gain a complete understanding of vendor capabilities through a systematic and independent vendor assessment. Our reliable, accredited auditors carry out internal audits, allowing companies and their vendors to meet quality standards without the cost of retaining an internal auditor on staff.

While the criteria are tailored to suit your needs, audits typically focus on a vendor's systems, practices and capabilities. Audits may include pre-contract assessment and compliance testing to international standards, for example quality (ISO 9001) health and safety (ISO 18001) environmental management (ISO 14001) and laboratories (ISO 17025). We also provide guidance for corrective and preventative actions in light of an audit's findings and follow-up assessments to confirm the effective implementation of those actions.

We also provide Approved Vendor Lists audits, allowing you to maintain a current list of approved suppliers in preparation for future projects.

## **The benefits**

As a global operator we can support your auditing and assessment needs anywhere in the world. Our expert staff are located in the world's major industrial centres, providing timely and cost-effective access to expertise, with the added value of in-depth local knowledge.

Our auditors are qualified to evaluate companies to both local and internationally accepted standards. And to keep pace with current standards and legislation, we are dedicated to continued training, development and competency testing.

Technical auditing and assessment services help insulate your business from the risk associated with choosing suppliers. In addition our services can help reduce costs, improve quality, and promote continuous improvement.

Our certified auditors are qualified to act as your internal auditor, QMS trainer and consultant to continually improve your system, process, product and efficiency.

## **Other Services**

Vendor assessment may lead to recommendations for other services such as, but not limited to, product inspection, expediting, QMS consulting, training, risk assessments, and internal auditing.