

AN ISO 55000 PRIMER¹

Submitted by

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ISO is the International Organization for Standardization. It is an independent, non-governmental organization with a membership of 163 national standards bodies. The standards body for the USA is the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). ISO began operations in 1947 'to facilitate the international coordination and unification of industrial standards'. ISO's Central Secretariat is located in Geneva, Switzerland.

ISO Standards are strategic tools that minimize waste, error and inefficiency. The standards contain world class practices, not only to ensure safe, reliable and high-quality goods and services but also to encourage innovation, offer solutions to global challenges, and support free and fair trade. ISO standards are developed through groups of experts assembled by ISO members. Since its establishment, ISO has published over 21,613 international standards. The standards are voluntary and based on consensus.

ISO standards are scheduled for update on a ten-year cycle, but they can be amended or expanded at other intervals on an as needed basis.

ISO TC-251 is the Technical Committee responsible for the development of the ISO 55000 family of standards.

ISO 5500x is a core family of standards that offers world class practices in asset management. It provides organizational frameworks or 'management systems' using a common language that can be applied across professions and industry sectors.

- ISO 5500x does not address wealth management or the maintenance of assets.
- The frameworks or 'management systems' offered by the standards should not be confused with 'computer systems', which are tools that may be used to apply management systems.

ISO 5500x was inspired by Publicly Available Specification 55 (PAS 55). PAS 55 was published by the British Standards Institution and is similar to ISO 5500x. PAS 55 focuses on physical assets, whereas ISO 5500x focuses on the organizational value of assets and asset systems.

ISO 55000 is an existing standard, released in 2014, that provides the overview, principles and terminology for the ISO 5500x family of standards.

ISO 55001 is an existing standard, released in 2014, that delivers a framework for initiating asset management policies, objectives, processes, and governance. This standard offers foundational elements for achieving strategic goals. Based on continuous improvement through the management of costs, performance and risk, ISO 55001 addresses asset management from a management systems approach.

¹ Information found in this primer has been extracted from the ISO website and the Strategic Business Plan for ISO/TC 251 Asset Management.

ISO 55002 is an existing standard, released in 2014, that offers practical guidance on the application of the framework established in ISO 55001. It addresses such issues as leadership and commitment, staff competency, communication, operational planning and control, change management, outsourcing, and performance monitoring, measurement, analysis, and evaluation to achieve continuous improvement.

Working Groups are established to determine the need for updates and improvements to ISO 5500x, and to support the widespread use of ISO 5500x, among other things. As of this writing, working groups have been established for Communications, Finance (ISO 55010), Public Policy (ISO 55011), and the review of the existing standards (most notably ISO 55002).

Key Benefits of Adopting ISO 5500x

- **Performance improvements:** Effective and efficient management of short- and long-term opportunities improves sustainability, allowing the organization to consistently meet or exceed the performance and social responsibility expectations of stakeholders.
- **Cost improvements:** An asset management system facilitates improved return on investment and cost reduction metrics without sacrificing short or long term organizational performance. Additionally, it improves the asset value to advance the bottom line.
- **Management of risk:** The ongoing review of processes, procedures, and asset performance enables informed management decisions that balance cost, risk, and performance data to improve organizational efficiency and effectiveness.
- **Assurance of business growth and improvement:** A robust asset management system aids improvements with formal, collaborative, prioritized, and coordinated implementation plans that enable the entire organization to communicate and understand the goals and commitments.
- **Reliable decision making:** Implementing an asset management system drives reliable decision making for the development, coordination, and control of asset related activities. It also aligns these activities with core organizational objectives.
- **Enhanced stakeholder confidence through compliance and improved reputation:** Using the ISO 55001 standard, based on the guidance of ISO 55002, supports a clear policy and strategy that maintain and continuously improves the asset management system and demonstrates alignment with other management systems.

For more information on ISO 5500x, visit TC251's website at committee.iso.org/tc251.