

The ISO Survey of Management System Standard Certifications – 2013

Executive summary

ISO has just released the results of its 2013 Survey of Certifications*. This is an annual study showing the number of certificates issued to management system standards in the past year.

A summary of the statistics is shown in the table below.

Standard	number of certificates in 2013	number of certificates in 2012	evolution	evolution in %
ISO 9001	1 129 446	1 096 987	32 459	3 %
ISO 14001	301 647	284 654	16 993	6 %
ISO 50001	4 826	2 236	2 590	116 %
ISO 27001	22 293	19 620	2 673	14 %
ISO 22000	26 847	23 278	3 569	15 %
ISO/TS 16949	53 723	50 071	3 652	7 %
ISO 13485	25 666	22 317	3 349	15 %
TOTAL	1 564 448	1 499 163	65 285	4 %

* Despite our best efforts to display consistent results, there are fluctuations in the number of certificates from year to year due to:

- The variability in numbers of certificates reported each year by individual certification bodies
- Inconsistent participation of some certification bodies that contribute to the survey one year but not the next
- The participation of new certification bodies

Main trends

The 2013 edition once again demonstrates comprehensive growth for all seven ISO management systems standards covered by the survey, with a 4 % increase in numbers of certificates issued worldwide.

On trend from last year, three sectors exhibit steady growth, in particular information security management (ISO/IEC 27001) and food management (ISO 22001), respectively boasting a healthy 14 % and 15 % increase in certification, while the medical devices sector (ISO 13485) similarly shows a 15 % increment. Strikingly, the US tops the certification charts for medical devices, a field otherwise dominated by Europe which claims a substantial 60 % share of the market.

ISO's flagship standards are holding up well although these markets, which took off in the early 1990s, are gradually reaching maturity. ISO 9001, the leading standard on quality management, continued to show very respectable growth (3 %) while ISO 14001 for environmental management registered 6 %, a 3 % drop on last year. Despite modest progress, however, ISO 9001 remains popular with an increased catchment area of 187 countries.

On the upswing, ISO 16949 for the automotive sector records a stable 7 % increase, while energy management standard ISO 50001 is still in huge demand after its impressive 2012 growth spurt, with a robust progression of 116 %. As in the past, the market for this sector is largely dominated by Europe, most prominently Germany.

Detailed findings

The Asian market still leads the way this year, dominated by China and, to a lesser extent, Japan, while Europe comes a close second, headed predominantly by Italy and Germany. As Asia's largest economy, China remains faithful to established management system standards, topping the league for numbers of certificates issued to ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 22000 and ISO/TS 16949.

Certifications to motor industry standard ISO/TS 16949 went from strength to strength with Asia claiming over 60 % of certificates issued, reflecting the region's healthy market for automotive parts. Similarly, information security standard ISO/IEC 27001 performed well in both Japan and India, the new technological powerhouse.

Underscoring world environmental concerns, ISO 14001 for environmental management records a 20 % increase in several regions – with a pollution-choked China in the lead for numbers of certificates issued – suggesting lasting potential for growth in years to come. Equally promising, ISO 22000 for food management showed good performance in all regions, with a remarkable 17 % growth rate in Europe.

Finally, as energy shortages loom on the global horizon, ISO 50001 shows encouraging growth for the second year running. Europe soars ahead with an 82 % market share, led by Germany still heavily influenced by national energy regulations.

This year's ISO Survey reflects a status quo in global economic trends, confirming the buoyancy of Asian markets relative to a more stable Europe. But figures also indicate growing enthusiasm among lower-cost labour markets, once again led by India. With 1 564 448 certificates issued worldwide, slightly up on 2012, the survey confirms that ISO management systems standards continue to fill a need where the market needs it most.

Here is a summary of the principal results:

ISO 9001:2008

ISO 9001:2008 gives the requirements for quality management systems. Certification to the standard is used in global supply chains to provide assurance about suppliers' ability to satisfy quality requirements and to enhance customer satisfaction in supplier-customer relationships.

Up to the end of December 2013, at least 1 129 446 certificates had been issued in 187 countries and economies, three more than in the previous year. The 2013 total represents an increase of 3 % (+32 459) over 2012.

The top three countries for the total number of certificates issued were China, Italy and Germany, while the top three for growth in the number of certificates in 2013 were Italy, India and the USA.

ISO 14001:2004

ISO 14001:2004, which gives the requirements for environmental management systems, retains its global relevance for organizations wishing to operate in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Up to the end of December 2013, at least 301 647 ISO 14001:2004 certificates, a growth of 6 % (+16 993), had been issued in 171 countries, four more than in the previous year.

The top three countries for the total number of certificates issued were China, Italy and Japan, while the top three for growth in the number of certificates in 2013 were China, Italy and India.

ISO/TS 16949:2009

ISO/TS 16949:2009 gives the requirements for the application of ISO 9001:2008 by suppliers in the automotive sector. Up to the end of December 2013, at least 53 723 ISO/TS 16949:2009 certificates, a growth of 7 % (+3 652), had been issued in 84 countries and economies, one more than in the previous year.

The top three countries for the total number of certificates were China, the Republic of Korea and India, while the top three for growth in the number of certificates in 2013 were China, India and the Republic of Korea.

ISO 13485:2003

ISO 13485:2003 gives quality management requirements for the medical devices sector for regulatory purposes. Up to the end of December 2013, at least 25 666 ISO 13485:2003 certificates, a growth of 15 % (+3 349), had been issued in 95 countries and economies, two less than in the previous year.

The top three countries for the total number of certificates issued were the USA, Germany and Italy, while the top three for growth in the number of certificates in 2013 were the USA, China and Greece.

ISO/IEC 27001:2005

ISO/IEC 27001:2005 gives the requirements for information security management systems. At the end of December 2013, at least 22 293 ISO/IEC 27001:2005 certificates, a growth of 14 % (+2 673), had been issued in 105 countries and economies, two more than in the previous year.

The top three countries for the total number of certificates issued were Japan, India and the United Kingdom, while the top three for growth in the number of certificates in 2013 were Italy, India and the UK.

ISO 22000:2005

ISO 22000:2005 gives the requirements for food safety management systems. Up to the end of December 2013, at least 26 847 ISO 22000:2005 certificates, a growth of 15 % (+3 569), had been issued in 142 countries and economies, the same as in the previous year.

The top three countries for the total number of certificates and growth in number of certificates in 2013 were China, Greece and India.

ISO 50001:2011

ISO 50001:2011 gives the requirements for energy management systems. Up to the end of December 2013, at least 4 826 ISO 50001:2011 certificates, a growth of 116 % (+2 590), had been issued in 78 countries and economies, 18 more than in the previous year.

The top three countries for the total number of certificates and growth in number of certificates in 2013 were Germany, the UK and Italy.