PD ISO IWA 31:2020

BSI Standards Publication

Risk management — Guidelines on using ISO 31000 in management systems

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National foreword

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The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee RM/1, Risk management.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

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Published by BSI Standards Limited 2020

ISBN 978 0 539 13552 7

ICS 03.100.01

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This Published Document was published under the authority of the Standards Policy and Strategy Committee on 30 April 2020.

Amendments/corrigenda issued since publication

Date	Text affected

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INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP AGREEMENT

IWA 31

First edition
2020-03

Risk management — Guidelines on using ISO 31000 in management systems

Reference number
IWA 31:2020(E)

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Published in Switzerland

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Foreword

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The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

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For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

International Workshop Agreement IWA 31 was approved at a workshop hosted by BSI, held virtually by Zoom in December 2019.

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Introduction

There is a steady growth in the number of organizations, of all types and sizes, that are using management systems based on an ISO and IEC Management System Standard (MSS)[1]. New ISO and IEC MSS continue to be developed to address specific aspects of an organization's activities, products or services. The ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 specifies the high level structure (HLS) for MSS. This generic structure prescribes identical core text, common terms and core definitions for all ISO and IEC MSS. An organization can integrate requirements or recommendations of different MSS into their management system. The unified structure of MSS can make it easier for users to construct an integrated management system (IMS), rather than end up with a fragmented management system. All such MSS employ the concept of an approach based on risk management, a risk-based approach or risk-based thinking (depending on the terminology used within the management system in question), which is at the core of any management system. The main advantage of this is the holistic application of interrelated systems. ISO 31000:2018 can be used to further develop or improve an IMS through its guidance on how to determine the risks that need to be addressed to give assurance that the management system can achieve its intended outcomes, enhance desirable effects, prevent or reduce undesired effects, and achieve continual improvement.

ISO 31000 is international best practice regarding risk management, which is widely accepted, generic and open to manage any type of risk. Integrating risk management into its management system(s) by using ISO 31000 brings multiple benefits to an organization, whether they only address negative effects or include positive effects. The purpose of risk management as outlined in ISO 31000 is the creation and protection of value. It helps improve the decisions of risk owners or process owners and enhances the operations of processes and all other activities of the organization, including strategic and operational. This can lead to better results, higher output quality, less costly mistakes and the management of liability.

Integrating risk management in accordance with ISO 31000 creates and protects value in organizations by supporting the achievement of objectives and making the organization more resilient to adverse effects. Assessing risks enables their appropriate treatment and establishes a basis for increasing the effectiveness of the organization's management system, achieving improved results, and preventing negative outcomes. However, integrating risk management into a management system can pose challenges, which can be reduced by following the guidance in this document.

1) A list of ISO and IEC MSS is available at: https://www.iso.org/management-system-standards.html

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