



# Impact to Clients from QMS Certification Rules in China - Edition 2025

by DQS AP Ltd, Dec 25, 2025



# Supervision

For Management System Certification Service in Mainland China

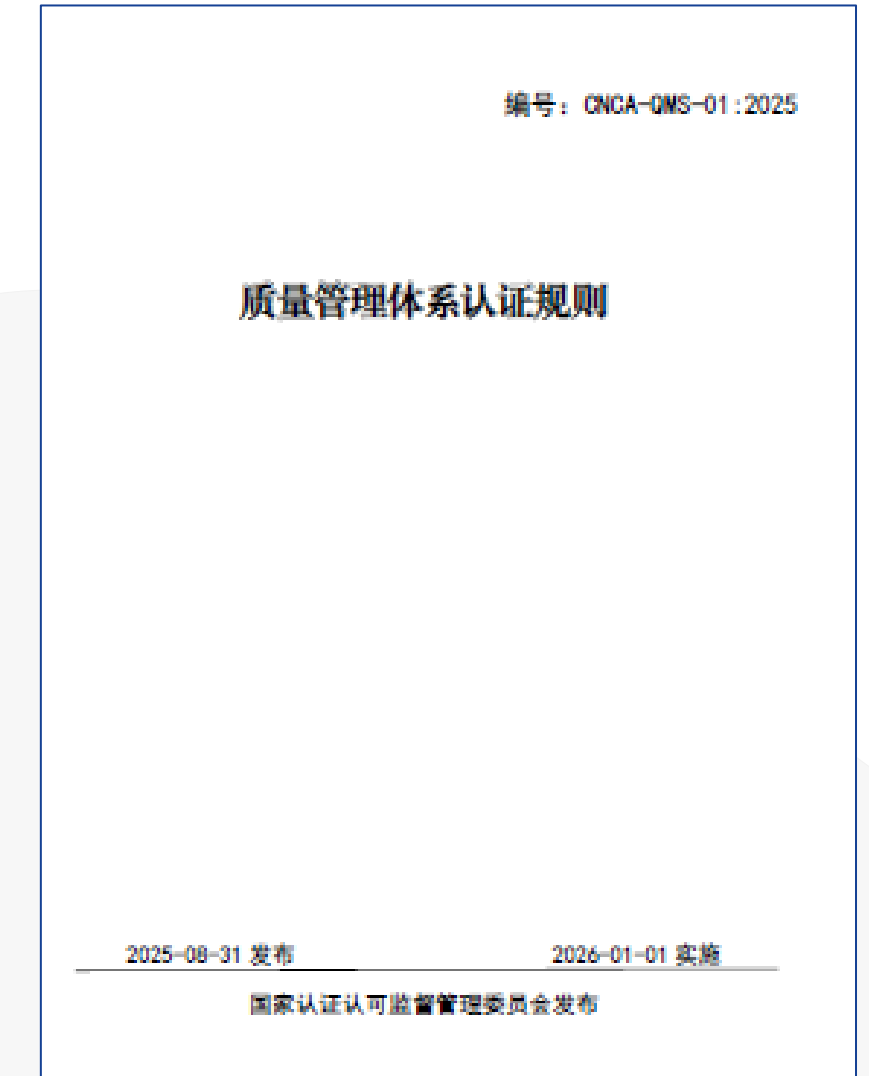


- Management system and product/service certification services in Mainland China (excluding HK, Macau or Taiwan) are regulated by the government.
  - Besides complying with accreditation rules, certification activities for Chinese locations shall also comply with local regulations.
- ❖ Chinese locations in this document standards for client locations in Mainland China.

# Supervision

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- QMS Certification Rules – Rev. Aug 2025 will become effective from Jan 1, 2026
- All provisions apply to ISO 9001, while some provisions apply to other QMS standards.
- This document covers only some of the provisions with direct impacts to the clients.



# Definition

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- QMS in this document can be a quality management system based on any of the following standards:  
ISO 9001,  
IATF 16949, ISO 13485, ISO 22163, TL 9000, QC 080000, AS91xx, etc.
- The requirements with direct impact to clients are primarily related to ISO 9001.

# Certification Fee Payment

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## For ISO 9001:

The certification related service fee shall be paid by the client, or its headquarters/subsidiaries, **directly** to the Certification Body.



# Certification Application

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When **applying** for ISO 9001 certification, the client shall meet below conditions:

- ✓ The client has valid business registration and any applicable permits,
- ✓ The client QMS has been implemented for 3 months with a valid Business Registration and applicable permits,
- ✓ The client's certificate was not suspended, withdrawn or cancelled by a certification body, due to a reason of the client, in the previous 12 months,
- ✓ The client's original ISO 9001 CB was not withdrawn by CNCA in the previous 3 months,
- ✓ ...

# Certification Application

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- ✓ ...
- ✓ The client is not in production suspension as ordered by the authorities,
- ✓ The client is not listed as a seriously illegal or untrusted organization by the authorities,
- ✓ The client was not ordered to suspend production due to a quality incident in the previous 12 months, and
- ✓ The client has been accepted for its improvement after a non-conformity form product quality sampling inspections by national authorities in the previous 12 months, when applicable.

# Audit Planning

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## For ISO 9001:

- ✓ The interval between Stage 1 Audit and Stage 2 Audit of an Initial Audit shall be no less than **5 days** and no more than 6 months.
- ✓ After initial certification or recertification,
  - the **1st surveillance audit** shall start within **12 months** from the certificate issuance date, and
  - the **2<sup>nd</sup> surveillance audit** shall start within **24 months** from the certificate issuance date and within **12 months** from the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> surveillance audit.Otherwise, the certificate shall be **suspended**.
- ✓ The on-site audit shall be scheduled to ensure that the client has **production / service** operation during audit.  
*(Otherwise, a major NC with Special Audit and extra cost will be resulted in.)*



# Audit Planning

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- Integrated Audit shall **NOT** be applied to **ISO 9001** with other management system certification activities without specific rules defined by an accreditation/recognition body or CNCA for audit days.

# Auditing - Opening and Closing Meeting

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## For ISO 9001:

- ✓ The client's **top management** and relevant **department heads** shall attend the opening and closing meetings.
- ✓ The attendance records and **photos** for the Opening Meeting and Closing Meeting shall be retained by the Certification Body as evidence.
- If the client's top manager is unable to attend the opening meeting or closing meeting, another senior management member with **written authorization** shall attend.  
*(Otherwise, the audit team shall terminate the audit, which will result in extra cost to the client.)*

# Auditing - Audit of Top Management

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## For ISO 9001:

The **top management** shall be audited at site by means such as face-to-face interview, to demonstrate the leadership in QMS, with **photos** and audit records as evidence. Authorization is NOT allowed.

*(Otherwise, a major NC with Special Audit and extra cost will be resulted in.)*



# Certification Records

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## For ISO 9001:

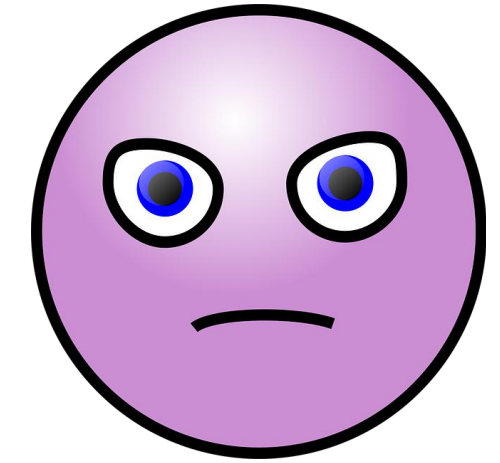
The following certification records require the client's signature or stamp:

- ✓ Certification application record (Basic Data Sheet of DQS),
- ✓ Certification contract,
- ✓ Audit plan,
- ✓ Opening and Closing Meeting attendance sheets, and
- ✓ Non-conformity reports.

Note: When electronic signature is used, it shall have electronic certification as defined by Electronic Signature Law of China.

# Suspension of Certificate

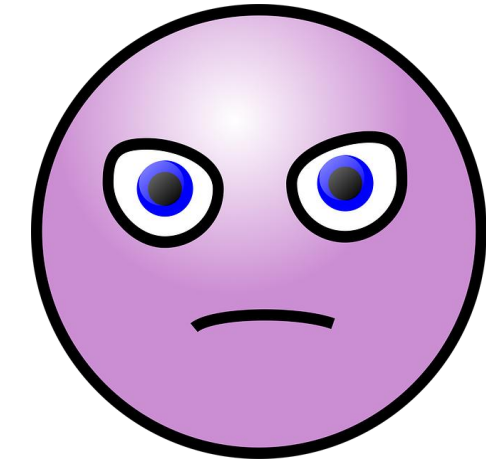
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- Any of below situations of the client will trigger **suspension of ISO 9001 certificate**:
  - ✓ QMS persistently or seriously fails to meet certification requirements, including serious disconnection between QMS documents and actual business operations;
  - ✓ Failing to meet QMS related regulations and failing to take effective corrective actions;
  - ✓ Receiving administrative penalties related to quality and not completing rectification;
  - ✓ Major quality accidents occur, reflecting major defects in the QMS;
  - ✓ Refusing to cooperate with the market supervision department's certification inspections, or providing false information;
  - ✓ Expiration of administrative licenses, qualification certificates, or compulsory certification certificates related to the scope of QMS;
  - ✓ ...

# Suspension of Certificate

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- ✓ ...
- ✓ Absence of surveillance audits within required intervals.
- ✓ Improper use of certificates, certification marks or relevant information;
- ✓ Failing to follow the requirements in certification contract;
- ✓ Ordered by the authorities to suspend its operation;
- ✓ Major negative public opinion associated with its quality issue;
- ✓ Requesting for certificate suspension by the client;
- ✓ Other situations that shall lead to certificate suspension.

# Withdrawal of Certificate

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- Any of below situations of the client will trigger **withdrawal of ISO 9001 certificate**:
  - ✓ Business Registration has been cancelled or revoked;
  - ✓ Being listed as an untrustworthy organization with serious legal violation by National Enterprise Credit Information Publicity System or Credit China;
  - ✓ The certificate suspension period has expired, but the cause has not been resolved or effectively corrected;
  - ✓ Major quality safety accident is confirmed by the authorities due to legal violation;
  - ✓ QMS is not running or no longer meet the conditions for operation;
  - ✓ Other situations that shall lead to certificate withdrawal.

# Use of Certification Marks

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## For ISO 9001:

Certification records for Chinese locations shall be **stored in Mainland China.**

# Existing Rules

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By the way, a reminding of a few **existing** rules  
(applicable to all management system certifications):

- ✓ For a client with sites in different countries/regions, the similar sites in Mainland China shall be separated for sampling audits.
- ✓ In practice, the supervision authorities do **NOT** accept **remote audits** without solid justifications.  
For examples, pandemic can be a solid justification, whereas a client request or long travel time is not considered solid justification.
- ✓ DQS Certification Marks shall NOT be used on product or product packaging.

**Thank you !**

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