

What is Annex SL?

Annex SL is an ISO document used by standards technical drafting committees for the development of management standards. It has a structure which must be followed in such standards. The framework has three levels

- High Level Structure
- Identical Core Text
- Common Terms and Conditions

The consequence is that each standard has the same format, framework and definitions. It has the following clauses:

1. Scope
2. Normative References
3. Terms and Definitions
4. Context of the Organisation
5. Leadership
6. Planning
7. Support
8. Operation
9. Performance Evaluation
10. Improvement

These common terms will be used for each clause, but those clauses will then apply to the specific standard details, e.g. quality in the case of 9001, or health and safety in the case of ISO 45001. The clauses have 84 shall commands, and thus ISO 45001 will also have at least 84 'shall' words. Some of those terms are described on our other web pages. One new term however is 'documented information', which replaces words such as documents or records. Thereby opening the way for contemporary communication systems to be used, e.g. computer based information. There are no compulsory work instructions or procedural requirements. This poses the question as to how auditors will measure documented information in future. We will produce guidance on this issue on this site. Register using our online form to be kept up to date on these time and money saving guidance advice notes.