

Advantages of an Integrated Management System (IMS)



- ▶ Management system standards have many common features
- ▶ These are clearly recognisable in the new standards through the uniform structure - the so-called high-level structure:
 - ▶ Organisational chart, policy, objectives, programmes / action plans, process and function descriptions, audits, review ...
- ▶ It therefore makes sense
 - ▶ Reduce the extensive documentation of the separate management systems
 - ▶ Clarify responsible party interface problems
 - ▶ Minimise the resulting loss of information
 - ▶ Prevent additional work (different IT platforms, standards and legal source services, auditor training)

Advantages of an IMS in the external audit



- ▶ There is **no** certification standard for IMS, but a requirement of the accreditation bodies (which supervise the national certification bodies)
- ▶ Advantages **also** arise from **the practice of** certification, cost and time savings
 - ▶ Reduction of audit time if the MS is **actually built in an integrated way** and the auditor(s) is/are accredited for several standards
 - ▶ Interviews of management and staff for multiple systems can be conducted simultaneously
 - ▶ avoids "frustration" of the employees due to constant duplication of surveys
- ▶ **Combined audit dates & reduced audit duration** (up to 20%) on site.
Significant **cost advantages** compared to separate handling of the individual procedures