



Swiss Association
for Quality and Management
Systems (SQS)

Press release

SQS – integrated quality management as an added value for everyone

Since 1983 the Swiss Association for Quality and Management Systems (SQS) has been the leading certification and assessment institution in Switzerland. Integrated into the worldwide IQNet certification network, through its reliable work it offers customers trust, security and sustainable success.

Today more than ever before, companies need to be flexible in order to respond appropriately to rapidly changing conditions. The quality of management, organisation and processes are the decisive factors for the long-term success of companies. With the certification of quality and management systems, SQS contributes to the continuous improvement of internal procedures and processes.

From quality assurance to quality management

At the beginning of the 1980s, the importance of quality at all levels of an organisation won recognition. Standards were introduced to assess quality and to enable quality assurance. Important industrial and economic associations, federal agencies and other organisations eventually founded the Swiss Association for Quality and Management Systems (SQS) in 1983 as an independent and neutral inspection body for these standards. A story of success, which continues to this day, began with the creation of the international ISO 9000 series of standards: More and more companies took over uniform ISO standards and simultaneously waived their own regulations. However, it soon became clear that quality assurance that is limited to product quality does not go far enough. The development of a comprehensive quality management standard was the solution. The focus was now on customer orientation, process management and a continuous improvement process. SQS actively helped to prepare this new quality management standard, known as ISO 9001.

Cross-industry expertise

Today, SQS, with its wide range of services, is the leading Swiss institution for certification and evaluation services. As a not-for-profit organisation, SQS operates internationally and has over 60 members from Swiss business associations and federal agencies. It audits, certifies and trains small, medium and large companies in all branches of industry. SQS certificates are recognised worldwide and represent strict guidelines and independent auditing and certification work.

The SQS in figures

- Founded in 1983 as an association
- Largest Swiss certification body with approximately 70 percent of market share
- More than 150 permanent employees and over 250 freelancers in several countries
- A total of around 14'000 certificates, including 4300 international ones and more than 1600 in the environmental sector
- Over 1,1 million employees in SQS certified companies
- Main industries: General industry, construction industry, automotive suppliers, medical field and the food industry

You will find further information at: www.sqs.ch