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The IRCA Organizations Employing Auditors Programme

Certification is all about confidence and using competent, certificated auditors is one important way of providing confidence in your certification services for your stakeholders and customers.

This IRCA Organizations Employing Auditors (OEA) Programme allows companies and organizations that employ auditors to provide this confidence by working directly in partnership with IRCA on the auditor certification process. There are many benefits.

Benefit - Marketing your certification services

When selling certification and audit services to potential clients your organizations in the OEA programme can be a useful tool in communicating the credibility of your audit staff.



IRCA OEAs benefit from the use of the **IRCA OEA logo** which can be used on marketing material and other corporate information.

We also publish a quarterly electronic magazine, **IRCA Inform**, which provides information about auditing, standards and accredited certification and we can provide free subscriptions for your clients to help them keep up-to-date with industry information, and to provide case studies and examples to support their own internal audit and improvement activities.

The screenshot shows the IRCA Inform e-zine interface. At the top right, it says "Issue 18, 2008". The main header reads "Welcome to IRCA's quarterly e-zine. Click on the links to get informed." Below this are navigation links: "Latest Issue", "Past Issues", "Sign Up", "Unsubscribe", and "Click here to visit the main IRCA website".

The left sidebar contains a menu with "Front cover", "Features", "News", and "Extras". The main content area is titled "The Food Safety Edition" and includes sections for "Food safety features", "Food safety going global?", "ISO 22000 versus the GFSI", "Auditor Guidance", "OHSAS 18001: nine months on", "The importance of integrated auditing", "Scope of assessment", and "The audit checklist: is it for you?".

The right sidebar features a "News" section with items like "ISO turns its focus to product recall", "A new workshop on the European Service Directive", "IRCA's new business continuity programme", "ISO 9001:2008", and "International Accreditation Day".

Benefit - Reducing the cost

We can reduce auditor certification fees by working closely together in two ways.

- We can make use of your own systems for managing your auditors. We ask you to perform some of the administration and evaluation work on your auditors that we would normally do, but most of this is not extra work for you, it is routine management work that you do anyway.
- We establish an efficient link between your organization (the OEA) and us. This means that instead of each of your auditors interacting individually with us, they do so collectively, through a nominated manager within your organization. At our end, we assign a Key Accounts Officer to work specifically with your manager.

Your organization will benefit in three ways.

- A very considerable saving in the amount of time your auditors spend in administering their own certification (e.g. we send you an annual consolidated invoice for which you make one payment).
- We may offer a significant reduction in certification fees. The arrangement generates economies of scale and we are able to pass these savings onto you. The more auditors you include in the programme, the more the savings and the lower the fees.
- Because we operate the relationship based on just two people, one from your organization and one from ours, we have removed the potential for confusion, duplication and inconsistency and ensured good communication.

The structure of the relationship has proved to be very efficient, easily accommodating the 950+ auditors of our largest OEA. Quite simply, the key feature of the arrangement is that it reduces the operational separation between our two organizations and makes us part of the same process.

Benefit - Keeping up-to-date

We work in an ever-changing industry and with these changes comes the need for auditors to update their knowledge and skills. This means that we change our auditor certification requirements from time to time and require auditors to complete specified professional development activities. As an IRCA OEA we keep you up-to-date on these changes in requirements and work with you to ensure that the continuing professional development activities that your auditors complete will meet changing industry needs and our changing auditor certification requirements. We can also suggest speakers for your in-house auditor development events and programmes to help support auditor development.

We organize events for OEAs periodically in London which provide an opportunity to discuss the OEA programme and share experiences of it with other organizations, and an opportunity to meet IRCA staff and discuss IRCA's plans and development.

One key benefit that employers of auditors value is the on-line find-an-auditor search facility which allows you to search our register of over 12,500 systems auditors in over 150 countries. When you need to employ new auditors please visit www.irca.org.

In addition, you will receive our quarterly magazine *IRCA INform* with general news about standards, auditing and IRCA.

How does the OEA-IRCA relationship work?

You perform some of the administration work, and we do all the evaluation work. Most of the administration work that we ask you to do are things that you will be doing anyway as part of your process to manage your auditors and their competence.

What types of organization join the programme?

Most OEAs are Certification Bodies/Registrars, simply because they are the main organizations employing large numbers of auditors. But the programme also includes other organizations that perform supplier audits. In fact, we welcome any organization that has in place an effective and centrally controlled system for administering its auditors.

Are there limits to the number of auditors?

Most OEAs have between 50 and 250 auditors, our largest OEA has even more than 1100 auditors. There is no maximum limit because the benefits continue to increase with number, but below 25 we do not offer any discount and would advise careful consideration as the benefits may not be obvious.

What types of auditor are included?

Any auditor certified to one of our programmes (eg. Quality, Environmental, Occupational Health & Safety, Food Safety, Information Security, IT Service Management, Business Continuity, Social Systems, EiCC- GeSI Labour & Ethics, Pharmaceutical and Energy Management) may be included within the OEA arrangement.

Are there any special requirements?

Only one: You will need to operate an effective process for administering and managing your auditors.

How do I find out more?

If you would like us to provide you with a quote, please contact us at:

Telephone: +44 (0) 20 7245 6833

Email: dhaste@irca.org

It would be useful if you could provide the following information:

- Your organization's name
- Your name and contact information
- The number of auditors that you are considering involving in the programme, detailed as follows:

Programme	Number of Lead/Principal Auditors	Number of Auditors	Number of Provisional Auditors	Number of Internal Auditors	Number currently certified by IRCA
QMS					
TickIT					
Aerospace					
Maritime					
EMS					
Food Safety					
Information Security					
IT Service Management					
Business Continuity					
Social Systems					
OH&S					
EiCC-GeSI				N/A	
EnMS					
PQMS					
Other					

For other contact details and to find out more about IRCA and our range of certification programmes and our training approval activities, visit our website: www.irca.org.