

ISO 37001 – Anti Bribery Management Systems

Management System

A Management System is the framework of processes and procedures used to ensure that an organisation can fulfil all tasks required to achieve its policies and objectives. Documented information ensures that everyone is not just "doing his or her thing", that there is a defined way to complete each of the business process organization has planned effectively and efficiently utilizing available resources. Management system ensures that all personnel are aware of their role, responsibility and authority for effective implementation of process including continual improvement.

Bribery & Corruption



Bribery and corruption is a wide spread phenomenon and may be impressed in different ways viz., extortion, kick-back, patronage, nepotism, theft, imposture, conflict of interest, favouritism etc., which raises serious social, moral, economical and political concern, and which also undermines good governance, hinders development, distorts competition, erodes justice, public trust, undermines human-rights and is an obstacle to the relief of poverty.

Bribery increases the cost of doing business, introduces uncertainties into commercial transactions, increases the cost of goods and services, and diminishes the quality of products and services, which can lead to loss of life and property, destroys trust in institutions and interferes with the fair and efficient operation of markets.

Bribery being one of the sub-set of or driver of corruption, it limits the level playing field, while also creating a leeway for corrupt individuals to divert corporate resources. Thus preventing bribery in any form is becoming and gaining global initiative, starting from individual awareness to organizations that have a responsibility to contribute to bribery prevention



Governments across the world have made progress in addressing bribery through international agreements such as the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions and the United Nations Convention against Corruption and through their national laws. In most jurisdictions, it is an offence for individuals to engage in bribery and there is a growing trend to make organizations, as well as individuals, liable for bribery.



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But, the law alone is not sufficient to solve this problem. Organizations have a responsibility to proactively contribute to combating bribery. This can be achieved by an anti-bribery management system, which this document is intended to provide, and through leadership commitment to establishing a culture of integrity, transparency, openness and compliance. The nature of an organization's culture is critical to the success or failure of an anti-bribery management system.

Anti Bribery Management Systems

Anti-bribery management system is a set of requirements and guidelines to develop reasonable and proportionate measures to prevent, detect and respond to bribery, proactively combating bribery in an effective and efficient manner and specifies implementation by the organization of policies, procedures and controls which are reasonable and proportionate to the bribery risks organization faces.

The bribery risks facing an organization vary according to factors such as the size of the organization, the locations and sectors in which the organization operates, and the nature, scale and complexity of the organization's activities. ISO 37001 – ABMS, specifies the implementation of policies, procedures and controls which are reasonable and proportionate according to the bribery risks the organization faces.

A well-managed organization is expected to have a compliance policy supported by appropriate management system standard to assist it in complying with its legal obligations and commitment to integrity. Thus, ISO 37001 (ABMS - Anti-Bribery Management System) provides an opportunity to mitigate the costs, identify reasonable and proportionate controls towards ZERO tolerance for bribery, promote trust and confidence in business dealings, promote positive culture, enhance all stakeholders trust, confidence, market acceptance and enhance its reputation.



ISO 37001 –ABMS, was prepared by Technical Committee (TC) ISO/TC 309, which is a framework/model for business processes, and addresses the following as key aspects,

- Bribery in public, private and not-for-profit sectors
- Bribery by the organization
- Bribery by the organization personnel acting on the organization behalf or for its benefits



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- Bribery by the organization business associates acting on the organization's behalf or for its benefits
- Bribery of the organization
- Bribery of the organization personnel in relation to the organization's activities
- Bribery of the organization business associates in relation to the organization's activities
- Direct and in-direct bribery (ie., bribe offered or accepted through or by third party)

Organisations that claim to have adopted ISO 37001 - ABMS can therefore be formally audited and certified compliant with the standard. However, conformity to ISO 37001 – ABMS, cannot provide assurance that no bribery has occurred or will occur in relation to the organization, as it is not possible to completely eliminate the risk of bribery. However, ABMS can help the organization implement reasonable and proportionate measures designed to prevent, detect and respond to bribery, thus making it a key differentiator when effectively implemented and providing acceptance from organisations, all stake-holders and governing authorities globally.

Leadership commitment to establishing a culture of integrity, transparency, openness, and compliance leading to an organization culture is critical to the success or failure of an 'anti-bribery management systems'

Benefits of ISO 37001 – Anti Bribery Management Systems,

- Culture of integrity
- Transparency, openness & compliance
- Prevent, detect & respond to bribery
- Promote trust & customer confidence
- Confidence in business & improved reputation
- Mitigate costs on the risks & damage arising out of bribery
- Acceptance in national & global market leading to recognition
- Reduction in liabilities (risk prevention)
- Work discipline through defined set of norms



IQC's global network of auditors allows organisations to work directly with local experts, to add value and mitigate risks with an IAS - accredited ISO 37001 Anti-Bribery Management System certification.

IQC has the edge and thus provides advantage of using the wide-pool of resources and contacts for delivering cost effective and competent certification services through IQC which is an independent entity for providing accredited, value added, independent and impartial management system certification services.



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