

The New ISO 37001 Standard: Practical Implications for the Anti-Corruption Management Systems

ASIS International, Chapter 160 Switzerland - Event # 04

Tuesday, 2 October 2018, 8:30 – 10:30, Schützengasse 4 8001 Zürich

An interview with the speakers:

Q:

Stéphane, you will tell us a real story about fraud and corruption occurred in a well know Swiss multination company. Can you give us a preview about the story you tell us?

[Stéphane Vuille]

I will tell the story of two cases involving a Swiss multinational and the Swiss entity of a multinational. Through these cases, I will show the impact for these organisations of not having an effective anti-corruption system in place. This will also be the opportunity to briefly describe the legal environment in Switzerland concerning the prosecution of corruption and bribery and its evolution in recent years.

Q:

Dejan, How do you assess actual the situation with corruption and fraud in Switzerland. Would you say this is a major problem or is this under control?

[Dejan Jasnic]

I do not believe one can ever say for corruption that it is under control. Considering the recent news on the public official from Geneva travelling to Dubai and on a pharmaceutical company paying for access to the US president, it seems that corruption risks are very present also in Switzerland. After all, Switzerland is an important player on the global market and is therefore inherently exposed to corruption risks.

Q:

Why is Standard ISO 37001 so important in this context?

[Dejan Jasnic]

Based on the standard's requirements a company can systematically approach the corruption risk and benchmark its anti-corruption management system. It provides companies with clear guidance on what topics need to be covered, to what extent and what the best practices are.

Q:

What does ISO 37001 bring for a company when implemented?

[Dejan Jasnic]

By its implementation companies are able to demonstrate their best efforts in preventing corruption. Existing regulations, such as the FCPA and the UK Bribery Act, allow such a company a full defense if the company can show that despite a particular case of bribery it nevertheless had adequate procedures in place to prevent persons associated with it from bribing.

Q:

How complex is the implementation? Today companies need to comply with many international standards why one more?

[Dejan Jasnic]

Many companies have already implemented numerous requirements of the standard. Therefore, the answer to the question can only be given for an individual organization, depending on the size of the gap between the requirements and its existing anti-corruption management system.

Q:

What are the benefits for a company it when it is certified according to ISO 37001? Are certified companies more profitable?

[Dejan Jasnic]

Profitability is always positively linked to integrity. There are numerous companies out there proving this point every day. What we are currently observing is a relatively high interest of multinational companies for the ISO 37001 certification. The interest is based on two reasons. One is benchmarking their anti-bribery management system. The second one is to have the legitimacy to require the same certification from their business partners (JVs, consortiums, suppliers) with the intention to diminish their due diligence cost.

ASIS Chapter 160, Switzerland:

Stéphane, Dejan, thank you for the interview! This sounds like a very interesting “Breakfast Meeting”. Many members have already announce their participation but I am sure with the additional information you will be able to convince many of the undecided members to join.

We are looking forward to an interesting even!

Enzo Peduzzi



Chapter 160 Switzerland, Vice-Chair Region East

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