

ISO Buyer's Guide

Unless you have experience with ISO certification, sourcing a certification body for the first time can sometimes be challenging – especially when it comes to comparing suppliers. That's why we've created this handy checklist to help you avoid the common pitfalls and make the right choice for your needs.

Is your certification body INAB-accredited?

You may be surprised to hear that anyone can hand out ISO certificates – you can even create your own! However, unless your certificate has credibility what value does it hold? That's why the Irish Government has appointed INAB to be the sole national accreditation body for Ireland. Unless your certificate has the INAB logo you run the risk of it not being accepted by your customers – especially if they are government-related.



Are you confident that you'll get a good service?

Have you researched the quality of your certification body's service? One way to do so is to look for independent reviews from genuine clients.



Pay close attention to the length of your contract – how long are you tied in for?

Some certification bodies tie their clients into 3, 5 or even 10 year contract terms with expensive cancellation charges. With Amtivo you are only committed to one year at a time.



What can you use to build and maintain your management system?

There are a variety of options out there, which vary in price. However new Amtivo ISO certification clients get access to our certification management software, worth over EUR 1,100, free of charge. This system includes tools and checklists to help you build and maintain your management system, instead of having to start from scratch or paying a third party to develop it for you.



Do you have to pay extra fees to close non-conformities?

Some certification bodies make an extra charge for closing out non-conformities. Amtivo doesn't charge you for closing out simple non-conformities, but we reserve the right to charge where significant amounts of extra work are involved, or an additional site visit is mandatory.



What is the total cost for the 3-year certification cycle?

Ensure you understand the full cost of achieving and maintaining certification. Some certification bodies charge less in the first couple of years and more for re-certification, so you only find out the full cost in year three.
(Note: costs are subject to ongoing review).



Do you have to pay admin charges for minor changes (e.g. to your certificate)?

Some certification bodies do charge administrative fees for changes. However, Amtivo does not charge you for simple changes – these are all part of the service.



Resources

Discover our [free resources](#) to help you understand ISO certification.



Training

Improve your ISO knowledge with our [training courses](#).



Contact us

Discuss your certification requirements with us:

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