



Executive Summary

As a company grows, it becomes increasingly important to ensure everyone knows what the company stands for, its working practices, and the minimum expectations across the organisation. However, this can be extremely hard to achieve.

Look at any contemporary company's values. Invariably, they are trying to foster an entrepreneurial and innovative culture - often seen as a mandate to actively avoid having defined processes and procedures.

Yet, despite this, most organisations are awash with function-specific management frameworks and systems.

Some are created solely to demonstrate compliance with regulation, while others are established to attain consistency in approach to specific aspects of business operations. The validity of content and understanding of where one system's purview stops and the next begins are difficult to discern.

What cannot be denied is that it is key to good corporate governance for leaders to update the company's policies, procedures, and processes dynamically to meet business needs and articulate those updates swiftly and succinctly to those affected.

Whether it's an updated health and safety policy, project risk management process, or operating procedure, everyone in the organisation should know where to find the content applicable to their role and be 100% confident in its veracity.

Most organisations preclude taking an enterprise-wide approach to addressing the development of management systems and their content. The functions' needs are perceived as being so different that it would be too complex and onerous to establish a uniform approach, so it becomes 'every function for themselves'.

Providing a single-source of-truth for all your business-directing content, the IMS is surely a must-have for any business.

An IMS allows function-specific approaches to be established, where needed, but forces efficient enterprise-wide approaches for most policies, procedures, and processes where there is no value gained from multiple different approaches.

Establishing a common, controlled area (site) within an existing company-wide document management system, following a few clear content-definition ground rules, supported by a simple data model and content control protocols, makes a truly *Integrated* Management System (IMS) solution entirely achievable.

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