

## **QUALITY POLICY BQA**

The value of a certificate on international level is first and foremost determined by the expertise and reputation of the certification body that grants it.

Apart from the requirements set by the accreditation body, BQA aims to base its expertise and reputation on the <u>added value</u> that is brought to the customer companies by the regular assessment of their management system.

Based on its experience, BQA concludes that, in order to guarantee over time that real added value is brought to the customer companies through periodic audits, the <u>expertise of auditors</u> who have real knowledge of the - for the company's customers - crucial elements of the activity that the company concerned wishes to have certified. This knowledge translates into the understanding of the customer company and its context, understanding the needs and expectations of the stakeholders.

BQA therefore determines its scope in function of the expertise of its auditors.

In order to promote trust in the certification and to guarantee added value to the customer companies, BQA strives for a harmonious completion of the certification activities by building a relationship of trust with the customer companies.

This relationship of trust is based on:

- ⇒ respecting the <u>confidential nature</u> of the information exchanged between BQA's personnel and the customer company.
- $\Rightarrow$  the processing of personal data in accordance with the applicable legislation
- $\Rightarrow$  the <u>non-discriminatory handling</u> of all steps in the certification process.
- ⇒ the <u>risk-based thinking</u> implemented throughout the various audit and certification processes, including the associated preventive measures.
- ⇒ the implementation of the certification activities in an impartial and objective manner.

In order to guarantee <u>impartiality</u>, BQA has set up a working group tasked with watching over absolute impartiality with the following objectives:

- ⇒ establishing an impartiality policy in all certification activities.
- ⇒ counteracting any tendency to hinder the delivery of objective, impartial and reliable certification activities.
- ⇒ performing a regular review to ensure impartiality in the audit processes, the certification processes and the decision-making processes.

In order to ensure BQA's competence in meeting the requirements set by the accreditation body, and in order to give real added value to the customer companies, BQA has installed a quality management system. The performance and effectiveness of the quality management system are evaluated annually by the Management Review, and the objectives are set. The aim of this is to continuously improve the services BQA provides to its customer companies.

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