



AQA International Newsletter

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AQA International News Flash



AQA is currently in the process of updating our website.

Last month we updated our Payment site to ensure it is secure for users. We now also have a PayPal feature that is available should you have an account. Customers are now welcome to pay any of their services, including invoices, on the website.

This month we will be revising our "Services" Tab to include all of the capabilities that AQA has to offer along with explanations of industry standards and links to our accreditation.

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Featured Client



Chipmatic Tool & Die, Inc. began as a machine shop in 1981 believing that "people make a difference". Customers, vendors and employees are all comprised of individuals that have specific needs. Working with each individual on a personal basis to insure that the goals of their organizations are met has allowed us to grow from 8 employees and 5000 sq ft to 70+ employees working in a modern 40,000 sq ft building. Success in the tool & die business as a result of quality work, customer service and on time delivery helped attract additional talented employees. Every effort was made to maintain an environment that encouraged flexibility and innovation. Word of the culture

and energy it created, spread by word of mouth to customers and vendors, which in turn led to more opportunities.

Opportunities outside of the tradition tool work increased with the advent of globalization and rapid technological change. Our specialty became innovation and change in itself. Customers came because we had good technical tooling ability which is the foundation for all manufacturing processes and we had a culture that was curious and open to change. We were able to instill confidence in customers when they wanted a solution that was new and not a "me too" approach. New employees were easily attracted by our innovative approach. Preference for new hires was for good

talent from diversified backgrounds to expand our capabilities but to insure creative non traditional solutions. These new talents were formed into a group focused on continuing our commitment of quality, customer service and on time delivery. Tool & die evolved from general work to concentrations in glass equipment, forging tooling and aerospace components. The requirement of high quality documentation was added to the existing need for very precise tooling. Information systems were added to enhance communication and control and then the shop was converted from manual machines to an all CNC facility.

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Technical Tip.... ISO 9001:2008

A new edition of ISO 9001, the world's most widely used quality management system standard, is due to be published before the end of the year! ISO 9001:2008 does not introduce additional requirements compared to the last edition in 2000 and does not change the intent of ISO 9001:2000. Although certification is not required, it is estimated that over one million ISO 9001 certi-

icates have been issued to organizations in private and public sectors, in manufacturing and services, and in 170 countries. ISO 9001:2008 will be the fourth edition of the standard which was first published in 1987. The third edition, published in 2000, represented a thorough revision, including new requirements and a sharpened customer focus, reflecting developments in quality management and experience gained since the publication of the initial version. The new edition will not require any specific reassessment for certification and compared to the 2000 revision, ISO 9001:2008 represents precise adjustments, rather than a thorough overhaul.

So, What does this mean to you???

Based on recently issued guidance from ISO (International Organization for Standardization) and the IAF (International Accreditation Forum), AQA's plan for certification to ISO 9001:2008 is as follows:

Accredited certification to ISO 9001:2008 will be available once the standard is officially published as an international standard. Publication is anticipated before the end of 2008. Certification to ISO 9001:2008 may be granted after a routine surveillance or recertification audit against ISO 9001:2008. Since, ISO 9001:2008 introduces no new requirements, no additional audit time will be required. Once the standard is published AQA will begin

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Internationally Speaking....

Here we grow again

Last month we were proud to announce a new regional office... AQA Canada, in Ontario, Canada. AQA is ecstatic about working and growing with this office!

We are currently working on opening an office in Spain. The headquarters for the Spain office, AQA Certification EU, will be located in Madrid. The Spain office will be focused on offering service to clients through out Western Europe. V. Manuel Torres of Madrid will lead the promotion of AQA International in Spain.



Did You Know?

AQA International would like to welcome... Ms. Holly Harmon, our new Program Coordinator. She is a recent graduate of the University of South Carolina and we are very excited to have her on board!!!





501 Commerce Drive NE,
Columbia, SC 29223
Phone: 800-281-4384
Fax: 803-779-8109
Website:
www.aqainternational.com

Who to Contact at AQA International

If you are wondering who to contact about your certification or services we offer, please feel free to call 800-281-4384.

Maureen Secrest
Accounting
Ext. 232

Jackie Lockett
Senior Program Coordinator
Ext. 223

Danielle Pope
Program Coordinator
Ext. 229

Holly Harmon
Program Coordinator
Ext. 239

Bart Walrath
VP of Technical Services
Ext. 224

Jerry Stillinger
Operations Manager
Ext. 225

Robert Starkweather
Aerospace Program Manager
Ext. 230

Stacey Blazik
Business Development Manager
Ext. 240

Lisa Shaw
Business Development
Ext. 234

Accessible, Understandable Registration



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Production machining was added to diversify the tool work. Specialized CNC equipment was added to be the best solution for specific projects. Most reliable, lowest cost supplier was always the goal. This strategy has allowed us to become benchmarkable in producing automotive ball joint housings and industrial bearings. Special machine design and build capability for automatic inspection of individual components and assemblies was developed to buy turnkey solutions to manufacture, assemble and insure

outgoing quality from a single source during a time of aggressive vendor reduction programs. Customers benefited from our wide array of experience and technical ability. Applications have included contact gaging, vision inspection and eddy current testing. A special niche that we have gained predominance in is checking wheel uniformity. This is the result of our innovative integration of technological advances and new software development. Our continued success will be by recognizing that change doesn't stop and adaptation is best accomplished by working

together with people and never losing site of the 3 basic requirements: quality, service and on time.

For more information visit www.chipmatic.com or call 419-862-2737.



Technical Tip.... ISO 9001:2008

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performing ISO 9001:2008 assessments. We will contact you during our normal planning/scheduling process and will provide any additional details at that time. Our goal is to provide for a seamless transition and also ensure that all certificates issued by AQA meet the following criteria mandated by our accreditation bodies:

- One year after publication of ISO 9001:2008 all certifications issued (new certifications or recertification's) shall be to ISO 9001:2008.
- Twenty four months after publication by ISO of ISO 9001:2008, any existing certification issued to ISO 9001:2000 shall not be valid.

Remember...AQA International is here for you! Should you have any concerns, questions or just want additional information, please do not hesitate to call us!!!

Training ...That Will Take You To The Top



Come join us in Columbia, SC for public training courses geared to meet your needs. Flyers and registration forms will be sent out bi-weekly with the course details and requirements.

On-site training is also available for all listed public courses. If this interests you, please contact [Lisa Shaw](mailto:Lisa.Shaw@aqainternational.com) for a quotation.

Month	Date	Class	Days	Cost per Person
November	5-6	EMS Internal Auditor	2	\$695
December	4	New Standards Overview (ISO 9001:2008, ISO 22000, ISO 27001, ISO 13485)	1	\$200
	8	Finding ROI in Your Management System	1	\$200
	17-18	TS Internal Auditor & Core Tools	2	\$695

**Keep your eyes open...
The 2009 schedule for training will be coming soon!!!**