INFOMATICS

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ISO OMAN LAUNCHED

We are thrilled to introduce ISO Oman's brand-new website, now live at https://isoconsultants-oman.com/. This revamped platform offers a user-friendly interface for easy navigation, a comprehensive repository of ISO resources, and the latest updates on ISO standards and industry trends.
 Contacting our expert team for inquiries, consultations, or support is now simpler than ever. This website aims to be your go-to resource for ISO certifications and quality management system improvements.
We value your feedback as we continue to enhance our online presence, making ISO excellence accessible to all. Visit our website today and embark on your ISO journey with us!

FOOD SECTOR RECALL PLAN – THE WHAT, WHY & HOW

BY FADI KHEDER

A recall policy refers to a set of procedures and guidelines that a company follows when a product they have produced and distributed poses a potential health or safety risk to consumers. The primary goal of a recall policy is to quickly and effectively remove the affected products from the market and notify consumers about the potential risks associated with the product. This helps to prevent any potential harm to consumers and maintain the company's reputation for quality and safety. The specific details of a recall policy can vary based on the company's size, industry regulations, and the nature of the product they produce. General steps and considerations that are typically part of a recall policy in the food business:

Identify and assess the potential issues with a product's safety or quality. This could be due to contamination, labeling errors, undeclared allergens, or other factors.

Investigate the root cause of the issue to understand how it occurred and how widespread it might be.

Isolate and quarantine the affected products to prevent them from being further distributed or consumed. Depending on local regulations, the company may need to inform relevant government agencies about the issue and the planned recall.

Inform distributors, retailers, and other partners about the recall and provide them with guidance on how to handle the affected products.

Notify consumers through various channels, such as press releases, social media, the company's website, and direct communication (e.g., email or phone calls). Provide clear information about the reason for the recall, the potential risks, and what consumers should do with the affected products.

Develop a plan for consumers to return or dispose of the affected products safely. This could involve providing refunds or exchanges.

Investigate how the issue occurred and take corrective actions to prevent similar incidents in the future. This might involve refining manufacturing processes, improving quality control measures, or reassessing suppliers.

Maintain thorough records of the entire recall process, including the initial identification of the issue, communication efforts, product retrieval, and any corrective actions taken.

After the recall is completed, conduct a review of the entire process to identify areas for improvement and to ensure that lessons are learned from the incident.

It is important to note that effectiveness of Recall procedure depends on different factors as the company Quality Control readiness , Its communication effectiveness and efficiency and its strict adherence to public safety

Product recall procedure is a mandatory Action in all Food safety management Systems as HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point) , ISO 22000 FSMS Food Safety management system, BRC, etc.

PEST CONTROL TIPS – IMPROVE YOUR HYGIENE STANDARD

Pest Control continue to be a critical point to watch in any food facility, many facilities experienced an increase in pest control issues as rodents and other pests became more desperate and bolder in their search for food sources in light of reduced foot traffic. Thus, we emphasize the importance of working with a licensed pest control partner and making prevention a top priority in your facility.

As a start you need to research existing firms in market, make sure you pick the one with strong support, fast reaction to any situation that may arise at your facility (Before finalizing the agreement, carefully read contract terms to fully understand what pests and services are covered, as well as any guarantees that may be given). Even after you chose the firm you need to keep close eye and frequent evaluation (we recommend twice a year, or at least on yearly basis).

Beside that here are some points that will help you in keeping pest control working in your favor :
*Look for signs of a rodent infestation such as live or dead rodents, nests or gnaw and rub marks. Pay extra attention to machinery, kitchens and bathrooms for signs of a cockroach infestation such as droppings or eggs. Carefully inspect storage areas where materials may be packed close together, providing cover for a multitude of pests.
*Inspect any shipments for pests before bringing packages and deliveries

ENSURING EXCELLENCE AND COMPLIANCE: ISO STANDARDS IN THE MEDICAL SECTOR OF GCC COUNTRIES

Introduction:

In today's rapidly evolving healthcare landscape, maintaining high-quality standards and regulatory compliance is crucial for the success and reputation of medical companies. The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) plays a pivotal role in providing internationally recognized guidelines and standards. This article explores the ISO standards applicable to the medical sector and highlights their importance, specifically for companies operating in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, UAE, Oman, and Bahrain. The standards to be discussed are ISO 13485, ISO 9001, Good Distribution Practice (GDP), and Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP).

ISO 13485: Ensuring Quality Management Systems

ISO 13485 is the globally recognized standard specifically designed for medical devices and related services. It outlines the requirements for a comprehensive quality management system, encompassing areas such as design, development, production, distribution, and servicing of medical devices. Compliance with ISO 13485 enhances the ability of medical companies to provide safe and effective products, while also ensuring customer satisfaction. For companies in the GCC region, adherence to this standard demonstrates their commitment to delivering quality healthcare solutions and helps facilitate access to international markets.

ISO 9001: A Holistic Approach to Quality Management

ISO 9001 is a generic standard applicable to any organization, including those in the medical sector. It focuses on establishing a robust quality management system that drives continuous improvement, customer satisfaction, and effective decision-making. By implementing ISO 9001, medical companies in the GCC can enhance their operational efficiency, optimize processes, and demonstrate their commitment to meeting customer expectations. The standard's emphasis on risk management and process control aligns with the evolving regulatory landscape, making it highly relevant in the context of GCC countries' medical industry.

Good Distribution Practice (GDP): Ensuring Product Integrity and Patient Safety

GDP encompasses the guidelines and requirements for the proper distribution of medicinal products, emphasizing their integrity, quality, and safety. With the rapid growth of the healthcare industry in GCC countries, ensuring the safe and efficient distribution of medical products is of utmost importance. Compliance with GDP, aligned with ISO standards, assures that medical companies in the region follow best practices in transportation, storage, and handling of products. This not only protects patient safety but also safeguards the reputation of medical companies by reducing the risks associated with counterfeit or substandard products.

Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP): Upholding Product Quality and Consistency

GMP is an essential standard for the pharmaceutical industry, providing guidelines for the manufacturing processes of medicinal products. Adhering to GMP ensures that medical companies maintain stringent controls over their manufacturing operations, including raw material sourcing, equipment calibration, process validation, and quality control. By implementing GMP, medical companies in the GCC can consistently produce high-quality products, minimize the risk of contamination or errors, and comply with the relevant regulatory requirements. It also demonstrates their commitment to patient safety and enables them to meet international standards.

Conclusion:

ISO standards, including ISO 13485, ISO 9001, GDP, and GMP, are vital in the medical sector, enabling companies to establish robust quality management systems, ensure product integrity, and comply with international regulations. For companies operating in the GCC region, adherence to these standards is particularly important. By adopting ISO standards, medical companies in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, UAE, Oman, and Bahrain can enhance their competitiveness, access global markets, improve patient safety, and safeguard their reputation. Embracing these standards will undoubtedly contribute to the growth and excellence of the medical sector in the GCC countries.
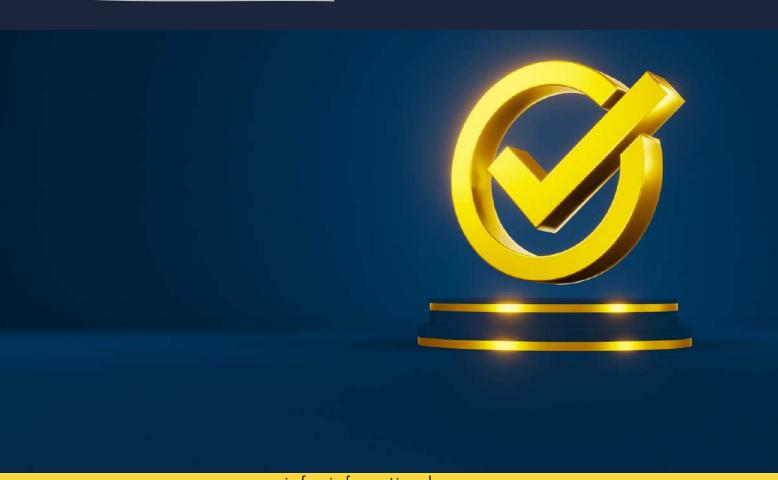
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Don't miss out on this valuable opportunity to take your organization to the next level of excellence. Contact us today to schedule your free consultation session and embark on your path towards ISO success.

We look forward to partnering with you on your ISO certification journey.

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