What are quality standards?

Standard is a technical document designed to be used as a rule, guideline or definition. It is a consensus-built, repeatable way of doing something. These consist on a set of technical specifications, defined based on consensus among all interested parties (industry, consumers, trade unions, public authorities or other entities) within independent standards bodies, acting at national, European and international level.

There are two main types of standard:

Technical standards: consist of technical specifications or other precise criteria that ensure products, manufacturing processes and services meet fixed quality benchmarks

Management and leadership standards: provide a framework for a business to manage its business processes and activities (Quality Management Standards)

Some of these standards are voluntary, whereas other standards such as harmonized standards have been made effectively mandatory under EU law.

Harmonised European standards provide detailed technical information that allows manufacturers to conform with the requirements in the directives.

More information on Standards:

International Organisation for Standardisation
European Committee for Standardisation
European Commission
Which are the applicable standards in Europe?


Note: other standards are under development and shall be published in the coming years.

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