EOQ Certification Scheme for Quality Management Personnel

- Quality Management Representative (QMR)

- Quality Manager (QM)

- Quality Auditor (QA)

- Quality Lead Auditor (QLA)

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CS 9000 2026

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Preface

The European Organization for Quality EOQ, established 1956, is an association under Belgian law of now 24 organizations: National Representatives (European, non-profit quality organizations), National Business Partners and Worldwide Partners.

The major goal of EOQ is to promote quality in the widest sense.

EOQ National Representatives (Full Member Organizations) are:

AEC (Spain), **AFQP** (France), **APQ** (Portugal), **ARC** (Romania), **CSQ** (Czech Republic), **CYAQ** (Cyprus), **DGQ** (Germany), **HNC** (Hungary), **KOQIM** (Kazakhstan), **KRN/QRN** (Norway), **NNK** (Netherlands), **OE** (Croatia), **QK** (Kosovo), **SSK** (Slovakia), **SZKO** (Slovenia), **TSE** (Turkey)

EOQ's Personnel Registration Unit has maintained a Harmonized Personnel Registration Scheme since the 80-ies of the last century. Parts of this scheme were and are competence requirements for quality professionals but also for professionals from other fields like environmental management, including also the requirements for the personnel certification process.

The competence requirements of the recently used EOQ Personnel Certification Scheme QMR, QM, QA and QLA have been established as a publicly available normative document EOQ CoS 9000:2026, published in October 2026.

The adequate requirements for the personnel certification process have been merged in the EOQ CS 9000 and have been noted by the EOQ General assembly the at their meetings in Prishtina/Kosovo on 21.10.2026

This document has been developed under consideration of EOQ internal rules, including the needs of interested parties and has been noted by the EOQ General Assembly and endorsed by the EOQ-CC on 21.10.2026.

All EOQ documents are published in English. EOQ members have the right to translate them into their own language as the valid national version in the respective country.

Queries regarding technical content can be addressed to the EOQ Technical Working Group. Please direct your queries to: eoq@eoq.org.

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1 Introduction

The certification of Quality Management Personnel has a long tradition in Europe and worldwide. Based on requirements concerning competent personnel related to functions in the quality management system of organizations the need for harmonized training and certification has been raised already in the 1980`s.

In Europe the EOQ developed harmonized schemes for Quality and Management personnel with broad acceptance.

In the meantime several different approaches and competence-profiles have been developed by many organizations. For personnel certification bodies and national accreditation bodies using ISO/IEC 17024 there is a need for common European criteria as a basis for accreditation and certification of persons.

These EOQ certification schemes have been developed by experts of the national agents of EOQ and can be used in accreditation processes of personnel certification bodies. These schemes have been developed on order of and issued by majority vote through the Personnel Certification Committeet of EOQ, as the responsible scheme committee on 21.10.2026.

This edition of CS 9000 was developed to fulfil the needs of the market and the interested parties regarding the competence of auditors. Like the previous edition, this one specifies the two different auditor grades "quality auditor" and "quality lead auditor" and ensures that they can be certified based on equal requirements within Europe. The auditor scheme does not identify the area of technical competence (in relation to ISO 17021-1) that an individual may have.

To comply with certification scheme requirements of ISO/IEC 17024 and ISO/IEC 17007 the content for the certification scheme was divided into two parts:

- CS 9000 defines the requirements concerning the certification process
- Corresponding CoS 9000 defines the knowledge and competence requirements

2 Scope of certification

The scope of these certification schemes is to define the specific certification requirements for

- Quality Management Representative
- Quality Manager
- Quality Auditor
- Quality Lead Auditor

within the countries with member organizations of EOQ and/or countries with certification bodies for persons accredited by accreditation bodies being member of EA MLA and/or recognized by IAF.

3 Terms and definitions

- **Assessment**:
  evaluation of a person's fulfilment of the certification requirements specified in the certification scheme

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- **Candidate**: person who has fulfilled application prerequisites; the application requirements can include prerequisites
- **Certification**:
  third-party attestation related to an object of conformity assessment, with the exception of accreditation
- **Competence Specification**:
  (normative) document defining competence criteria for personnel
- **Certification scheme / scheme for certification of persons:**
  set of rules an procedures that specifies the competence criteria and other requirements related to specific categories of skills or occupations of persons and specifies the methodology for performing certification of persons
- **Certification process**:
  activities by which a certification body determines that a person fulfils certification requirements; Certification process includes application, assessment, decision on certification, recertification and issuance of certificates. It can include surveillance.
- **Competence**: ability to apply knowledge and skills to achieve intended results
- **Qualification**: demonstrated education, training and work experience
- **Examination**: part of the assessment which measures a candidate's competence by one or more means, such as written, oral, practical and observational, as defined in the certification scheme
- **Multiple Choice Questions (MC)**: kind of written exam in which the candidate is asked to select the best possible answer out of the choices from a group of predetermined choices. 1 of 4 type means: of 4 predetermined choices definitely 1 choice is correct and 3 are false.
- **Oral examination**: Includes oral, practical and workplace type of examination

3.1 References

Applicable documents:

- ISO/IEC 17024
- ISO/IEC 17000
- EOQ CoS 9000 Competence Specification
- EOQ CC2: EOQ Harmonized Examination System – Framework

All mentioned documents in their valid version, if not specified.

4 Requirements related to certification bodies

A certification body issuing certificates based on this certification scheme shall fulfil the requirements of ISO/IEC 17024.

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5 Criteria and prerequisites for the initial certification

As prerequisites for the initial certification the certification body shall require objective evidence that the person applying for certification fulfils the *basic requirements related to the profile* as specified in the corresponding competence specification (CoS). It is the responsibility of each personnel certification body to identify the appropriate reference levels within the respective national qualification and training context, using the European Qualification Framework (EQF) where applicable.

The prerequisites cover:

Education

General Work Experience

Workplace-specific Experience

Formal training

Auditing Experience (if applicable)

Code of professional conduct

6 Training Programmes

The national EOQ Competence Certification Agent (CC Agent) personnel certification body (PCB) is responsible for the validation of training programmes based on the knowledge and skills specification in the corresponding CoS and the requirements defined in EOQ24 "EOQ methods and criteria for approval of training courses and training providers". Candidates shall provide sufficient documentation on the content, duration and positive completion of relevant training programmes to the personnel certification body. Applicant's earlier training courses within the area of quality management may be taken into consideration by the certification body when deciding the necessary number of hours of vocational training.

7 Certification process for initial certification

7.1 Requirements for the initial certification

The certification requirements consist of prerequisites as defined in chapter 5 and specific examinations according section 7.2.

Additionally the candidate shall sign a Code of Professional Conduct as specified in section 9 **Annex A: EOQ PRU Code of Professional Conduct**.

7.2 Examination requirements and procedures

7.2.1 Basic conditions for the examination

An examination shall address the specific competence requirements for each job profile defined in CoS 9000, chapter 5.2. The examination shall use two or more examination types and shall be designed to comply with EOQ CC2: EOQ Harmonized Examination System – Framework.

The examination shall be consistent with the requirements of the COS by each personnel certification body, specifying the parts of the examination. The design of the examination shall ensure

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the comparability of results of each single examination, including the validity of fail/pass scores set by the PCB. The fail/pass score shall be set to a minimum of 60%.

The results of each part of the examination shall be evaluated separately. The examination is considered as passed, when the fail/pass score of each part of the examination has been achieved. Candidates failing any part of an examination may retake this part of the examination up to two times. After two unsuccessful retakes, the candidate shall demonstrate a knowledge/skill development activity in order to be permitted to make a new attempt. Overall, there is no limitation of retakes.

An evaluation system shall be implemented which defines the evaluation criteria for each part of the examination.

For all examination tasks the examiners shall be provided with:

- advice for possible correct solutions for each task and
- a marking/scoring scheme according to the evaluation criteria as tool for the evaluation of the candidate.

Examinations may be conducted through electronic or remote methods provided that the PCB maintains the integrity, validity, reliability and fairness of the assessment process and is in line with ISO/IEC 17024.

7.2.2 Requirements for examination questions

Each certification body shall keep a collection of examination questions for each part of the examination. The structure and content of the collection shall be referenced to the knowledge and skills as defined in the corresponding CoS.

For written exams based on multiple choice questions, the questions shall be clustered. For each type of examination the certification body shall define how many questions shall be selected out of each cluster. For each written exam the threefold number of questions as selected for an examination shall be available. Questions shall be chosen such as to ensure independence of single examinations.

Examination questions shall be evaluated for validity and adequacy at least every second year. In addition, an evaluation must be conducted in the event of changes to CoS 9000 or relevant standards.

7.2.3 Requirements for examiners

Examiners and personnel involved in certification decisions shall fulfil the competence requirements defined in "EOQ23 EOQ guideline for nomination of examiners and persons involved in the certification decision".

7.2.4 Quality Management Representative Examination

The examination shall be designed to comply with EOQ CC2: EOQ Harmonized Examination System – Framework. The minimum sum of ERP for the examination shall be 60.

The examination shall comprise two or more examination types as described in EOQ CC2.
The majority of the examination content shall refer to the following topics clusters and take

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into account the weighting. Additional content may be selected from the CoS 9000 topics that are not mentioned in the table.

Nr. in CoS	**Clusters of Topics** related to the task description and related knowledge and skills in EOQ CoS 9000	**Weighting in %**
		QMR1
a b	Implement and maintain QM system, taking into account normative requirements Recognize legal and other normative requirements and coordinate their assessment and implementation in the organization	40
c	Adress risks and opportunities	5
d	Process Management	10
		QMR2
j	Recognize customer-specific requirements	15
k l	Decide on the application of and be able to apply selected QM methods Manage (QM) projects	25
m	Create, implement, assess and improve audit programs	5

The evaluation in the examination shall furthermore comprise the candidate's personal behaviour and the ability to solve a typical job-related task correctly and sufficient.

7.2.5 Quality Manager Examination

The examination shall be designed to comply with EOQ CC2: EOQ Harmonized Examination System – Framework. The minimum sum of ERP for the examination shall be 120.

The examination shall comprise two or more examination types as described in EOQ CC2. The majority of the examination content shall refer to the following topics clusters and take into account the weighting. Additional content may be selected from the COS 9000 topics that are not mentioned in the table.

Nr. in CoS	**Clusters of Topics** related to the task description and related knowledge and skills in EOQ CoS 9000	**Weighting in %**
		QMR1
a b c d	Implement and maintain QM system, taking into account normative requirements Recognize legal and other normative requirements and coordinate their assessment and implementation in the organization. Adress risks and opportunities Process Management	25

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Nr. in CoS	Clusters of Topics related to the task description and related knowledge and skills in EOQ CoS 9000	QMR2
j	Recognize customer-specific requirements and coordinate their assessment and implementation in the organization	10
k l m	Decide on the application of and be able to apply selected QM methods Manage (QM) projects Create, implement, assess and improve audit programs	15
		QM
a	Apply QM methods. Analyse quality-related data, assess facts, consolidate and present them	20
b d e	Continuously analyse customer interest, represent them in the organization and implement them where applicable Develop QM system in the direction of sustained business success of the organization Integrate/combine requirements from different manage-ment system standards and other internal and external requirements	30

The evaluation in the examination shall furthermore comprise the candidate's personal behaviour and the ability to solve a typical job-related task correctly and sufficient.

7.2.6 Quality Auditor Examination

The examination shall be designed to comply with EOQ CC2: EOQ Harmonized Examination System – Framework. The minimum sum of ERP for the examination shall be 90.

7.2.6.1 Demonstration of sector specific knowledge and skills

Written exam

To demonstrate *'EOQ Quality Management Representative' (Part 1)* specific knowledge as defined in CoS 9000, candidates shall pass a written examination. The examination shall be designed to comply with EOQ CC2: EOQ Harmonized Examination System – Framework. The minimum sum of ERP for the written examination shall be 40. The majority of the examination content shall refer to the following topics clusters and take into account the weighting.

Nr. in CoS	Clusters of Topics related to the task description and related knowledge and skills in EOQ CoS 9000	Weighting in % QMR1
a b c	Implement and maintain QM system, taking into ac-count normative requirements Recognize legal and other normative requirements and coordinate their assessment and implementation in the organization Address risks and opportunities	60
d	Process Management	20

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Nr. in CoS	Clusters of Topics related to the task description and related knowledge and skills in EOQ CoS 9000	Weighting in % QMR1
e f g	Manage and moderate groups Present and report results to different target groups Be a contact person and motivator for employees in the organization	20

Alternatively candidates may have passed a QMR or QM examination.

7.2.6.2 Demonstration of audit-specific knowledge and skills

The examination shall comprise two or more examination types as described in EOQ CC2 EOQ Harmonized Examination System – Framework. The majority of the examination content shall refer to the following topics clusters and take into account the weighting.

Nr. in CoS	Clusters of Topics related to the task description and related knowledge and skills in EOQ CoS 9000	Weighting in %
a	Create, implement, assess and improve audit programs	30
b	Initiate, plan, perform and revise Management System Audits, Process Audits, Compliance Audits	50
c	Assess quality management systems	20

The evaluation in the examination shall furthermore comprise the candidate's personal behaviour and the ability to solve a typical job-related task correctly and sufficient.

7.2.7 Quality Lead Auditor Examination

The examination shall be designed to comply with EOQ CC2: EOQ Harmonized Examination System – Framework. The minimum sum of ERP for the examination shall be 120.

7.2.7.1 Demonstration of quality-specific knowledge

The candidates shall fulfil the competence criteria of quality manager at the moment of initial certification as Lead Auditor.

7.2.7.2 Demonstration of audit-specific knowledge and skills

The examination shall comprise two or more examination types as described in EOQ CC2. The majority of the examination content shall refer to the following topics clusters and take into account the weighting.

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Nr. in CoS	Clusters of Topics related to the task description and related knowledge and skills in EOQ CoS 9000	Weighting in % QA
a	Create, implement, assess and improve audit programs	15
b	Initiate, plan, perform and revise Management System Audits, Process Audits, Compliance Audits	25
c	Assess quality management systems	10
		QLA
a	Create, implement, assess and improve audit programs for third party certification	10
b	Initiating, planning, executing and revising third party Management System Audits (single, combined) Process Audits Initiating, planning, executing and revising Product Audits Compliance Audits	30
c d	Evaluating complex quality management systems Act as audit team leader	10

The evaluation in the examination shall furthermore comprise the candidate's personal behaviour, the ability to solve a typical job-related task correctly and sufficient.

7.3 Certification decisions

7.3.1 Decision making process

The decision about certification follows the rules defined above. The decision about certification is made when evidence concerning all requirements is provided.

7.3.2 Certificate duration

Each certificate for

- Quality Management Representative
- Quality Manager
- Quality Auditor
- Quality Lead Auditor

is valid for a defined period of three years. The validity date is specified on the certificate and follows the date of the certification decision. A new certificate is issued after re-certification process has been positively completed. Certificate text and use of EOQ logo and mark is specified in "EOQ25 - EOQ contract frame for PCBs and Training organizations".

7.3.3 Criteria for suspending and withdrawing of EOQ certification

The certification body shall define and communicate the procedure for the suspension and withdrawal of certification. Suspension or withdrawal shall be considered for the following cases:

- Certified persons fail to comply with the re-certification criteria

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- Persons perform not-competent professional work in the area of their certification
- The person does not comply with the code of conduct
- The person has voluntarily requested a suspension
- An inadmissible use of the certificate and/or those of the accreditation body are not corrected
- Invoices are not paid even after appropriate reminders.
- The person provides false or misleading information.
- The person engages or is involved in fraudulent examination behaviour.

The Certification Body shall investigate such occurrences and take the appropriate action.

8 Surveillance and Re-Certification

Considering the three years re-certification period surveillance activities are not necessary.

EOQ Quality Professionals shall provide evidence of maintaining their competence periodically by recertification. Certification and recertification period is three years. The main target of recertification is to provide evidence that the candidates have maintained their competence.

Recertification may be performed in the time period from six months prior to expiry to six months after expiry. Failure to complete recertification within the permitted period shall require the applicant to fulfil the requirements for initial certification, including examination.

8.1 Quality Management Representative Re-Certification

The competence of a quality management representative shall be reconfirmed using at least two of the below described re-certification methods:

1) Profile related Professional development activities of at least eight hours (per 45 min.), which may include trainings courses, conferences, academic studies, publication of technical papers, professional committee participation. Asynchronous training courses shall only be recognized if they conclude with a successfully completed knowledge test.
2) Examination: The examination shall be designed to comply with EOQ CC2: EOQ Harmonized Examination System – Framework. The minimum sum of ERP for the examination shall be 30.
3) Providing evidence regarding professional practice: Declaration by the employer or by contractor(s) on at least one full year of work-experience in a function that includes tasks related to the "EOQ Quality Management Representative" task description in the re-certification period.

The obtained information regarding professional practice shall be reviewed by the certification body and verified with the employer or contractor using a sampling mechanism based on a risk-based approach.

8.2 Quality Manager Re-Certification

The competence of a quality manager shall be reconfirmed using at least two of the below described re-certification methods:

1) Profile related Professional development activities of at least eight hours (per 45 min.), which may include trainings courses, conferences, academic studies, publication of technical papers, professional committee participation. Asynchronous

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training courses shall only be recognized if they conclude with a successfully completed knowledge test.

2) Examination: The examination shall be designed to comply with EOQ CC2: EOQ Harmonized Examination System – Framework. The minimum sum of ERP for the examination shall be 60.
3) Providing evidence regarding professional practice: Declaration by the employer or by contractor(s) on at least two full years of work-experience in a function that includes tasks related to the "EOQ Quality Manager" task description in the period of recertification.

The obtained information regarding professional practice shall be reviewed by the certification body and verified with the employer or contractor using a sampling mechanism based on a risk-based approach.

8.3 Quality Auditor Re-Certification

The competence of quality auditor shall be reconfirmed by :

1) Providing evidence regarding professional practice: At least three complete management system audits with at least 15 days with a minimum of 9 days conducting auditing activities during the re-certification period, as to be declared by the employer or contractor(s)/customer(s) of the certified person.

   Alternatively: Evaluation by a designated peer: 2 days of on-site witnessing, where the candidate is acting as auditor. The audit documentation prepared by the candidate shall be evaluated by the peer. ISO/IEC 17024, 6.1 and 6.2 shall apply for the peers.

The obtained information regarding audit practice shall be reviewed by the certification body and verified with the employer or contractor using a sampling mechanism based on a risk-based approach.

2) Additionally minimum one of the below described re-certification methods:
   a. Profile related Professional development activities of at least 16 hours (per 45 min.) which may include trainings courses, conferences, academic studies, publication of technical papers, professional committee participation. Asynchronous training courses shall only be recognized if they conclude with a successfully completed knowledge test.
   b. Examination: The examination shall be designed to comply with EOQ CC2: EOQ Harmonized Examination System – Framework. The minimum sum of ERP examination shall be 60.

8.4 Quality Lead Auditor Re-Certification

The requirements under section 8.3 for Quality Auditor Re-Certification apply.

Additionally at least one of the audits shall be performed in the role of an audit team leader, leading a team of at least one other auditor.

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9 Annex A: EOQ PRU Code of Professional Conduct for EOQ Professionals

Note:

The certification body shall be required to produce the Code in the local language(s), especially with regard to comprehensibility by the Auditor candidates and also according to the requirements of the various courts of law.

The EOQ further recognizes that adaptations to the source may be necessary when translating into the target languages, due to cultural, social and legal considerations. It may, for example, be abbreviated in accordance with local custom.

Therefore, the following Code in English language shall be considered as a guide to the certification body. The EOQ only requires that the elements of the Code be adopted wherever possible and that no major alterations to its fundamental message or additions are made in the translated versions.

Introduction

This Code and Disciplinary Procedure have been formulated to promote ethically sound professional conduct within all areas of management systems. Whilst its wording does not refer specifically to a certain kind of management system, the topics covered have been carefully selected as those, especially relevant to this professional field. Care has also been taken to avoid weighting it toward any type of industry or any specific professional role, but to be generally applicable to EOQ Professionals who occupy many and widely varied positions in a broad spectrum of sectors and organizations.

As experience is gained in applying the Code to real life situations and as the Auditors raise questions with the EOQ on ethical matters, other areas may warrant elaboration, either in interpretative or elaborative notes or as modifications to the Code itself.

General professionalism

• EOQ Professionals shall apply their professional skill and judgement to the best of their ability at all times, legally and with honesty and integrity, holding the valid interest of parties to whom they are contracted, whether employers, customers or clients, above personal considerations.

• EOQ Professionals shall take all reasonable steps to develop their own professional competence and maintain themselves abreast of current thinking and developments in their professional field.

EOQ Professionals shall lay claim only to such memberships and qualifications which are valid at the time.

Responsibilities to the general public

• EOQ Professionals shall take all reasonable precautions to safeguard the public interest in matters of health, safety and environmental impact.

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Responsibilities to the profession

• EOQ Professionals shall act at all times so as to maintain the dignity and reputation of their profession.

• All advertising shall be decent, legal, honest and factual and shall not make comparisons with other professional services.

Responsibilities to clients, customers and employers

• EOQ Professionals shall avoid professional employment or assignments which may give rise to conflict of interest without prior written notification of an agreement by all parties to the potential conflict.

• EOQ Professionals shall not knowingly undertake work for which they do not have sufficient and appropriate competence or authority.

• EOQ Professionals shall maintain strict confidentiality with regard to information acquired in the course of their professional work, unless disclosure either is with the consent of the employer/client from whom the information was acquired or is required by law.

• EOQ Professionals shall avoid any improper use for their own advantage, or that of a third party, of information acquired in the course of professional work.

• EOQ Professionals shall not take unfair advantage of an employer's or client's lack of knowledge or expertise.

• EOQ Professionals shall at all-time give advice to clients and employers that is professionally objective, relevant and timely, along with any pertinent caveats, reservations or cautionary observations.

• EOQ Professionals shall behave at all times with the utmost financial probity, ensuring that, so far as possible, contracts and financial arrangements are unambiguous and protect the valid interests of all parties concerned.

Responsibilities to subordinates

• EOQ Professionals shall maintain adequate supervision over persons working under their professional authority or supervision and shall encourage them to develop their professional competence.

Responsibilities to fellow Auditors

• EOQ Professionals shall take care not to publish or otherwise communicate unjustified and unreasonable criticism of another member's professional work.

• An EOQ Auditor shall not knowingly place a fellow Auditor in a position in which he or she may unwittingly breach any part of this Code of Professional Conduct.

Declaration

I have read the above EOQ Code of Professional Conduct and hereby declare that I will entirely abide by its clauses:

Place and date

.....

Name and signature

.....

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