



On November 3, 2019 Perry Johnson Registrars became the first certification body headquartered in the United States to receive ANAB accreditation to the global Anti-Bribery Management System (ABMS) standard – ISO 37001.

In the ever-changing world of business and commerce, the need for trust and honesty has never been more paramount. Industries as diverse as construction, financial trading, and education have all been victim to incidents of bribery and the shadow of mistrust that it casts. An international standard to combat bribery was long needed and was finally realized on October 15, 2016 when ISO 37001 was first published.

ISO 37001 was developed by ISO Project Committee 278 and drew from past efforts by the International Chamber of Commerce, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and Transparency International to develop a workable standard for bribery system management. Transparency International's work in this matter was particularly important in its publication of the annual "Corruption Perception Index" – a key factor used by certification bodies in determining required audit time for assessing an applicant's ABMS program.

ISO 37001 addresses bribery from three key aspects – prevention, detection, and response. Specified prevention controls include mandatory bribery training programs, establishment of an anti-bribery policy, and mandatory contract provisions for suppliers/business associates. Required detection controls include establishment of an Anti-Bribery Compliance function (team), regular completion of Bribery Risk Assessments, and mandatory whistleblower protections. In the unfortunate event of a bribery incident, ISO 37001 has requirements that pertain to investigation and resolution of the incident. These include independent assessment of the incident by empowered assessors, protection confidentiality for informants, and independent evaluation of results.

As ISO 37001 is an "Annex SL" rooted document it can easily be aligned to any other ISO published standard (including ISO 9001, ISO 14001, and ISO 45001.) Accordingly, it contains many requirements that should be very familiar to users of these standards. Many familiar requirements such as management review, internal audit, corrective action, and documented information are found in ISO 37001.

ISO 37001 is an attractive certification option to any organization, but it is particularly relevant to those organizations who operate in industries or regions with a reputation (warranted or not) for bribery. ISO 37001 certification shows a firm commitment to business ethics and fairness in all dealings.