The anticipated release of the new BRC Global Standard for Packaging – Issue 6 will be August 2019 – and it is not just the name that will be subject to a change. In the following, we will present you a summary of the proposed changes, stated in the Draft Version that is now under revision.

The new BRC Global Standard for Packaging – Issue 6 includes six major changes: two key changes concerning the protocol and four key changes regarding the requirements of the former Packaging and Packaging materials – Issue 5 certification. While reading please keep in mind that the requirements and protocol are still subject to change.

Changes to the Protocol

1. Removing the second hygiene category

In Issue 5 there were two categories of requirements, depending on the intended use of the packaging material – high hygiene and basic hygiene. Removing the two-category system simplifies the use of the new standard. The differing hygiene levels will be replaced by a risk-based approach, based on only one set of requirements. Some requirements will have a higher or differing level of hygiene that applies to “food contact materials”.

2. Removing second/split unannounced audit option

Version 5 of the BRC Global Standard for Packaging offered three audit options: Full announced audit, full unannounced audit, and split unannounced audit. The last one divided the audit requirements into two separate audits, the first one unannounced and the second one announced. Reflecting that the full unannounced audit option is generally preferred because it gives extra confidence to specifiers, Issue 6 will be in line with Issue 8 of the Food Standard by removing the split unannounced audit option. Unannounced audits remain optional.

Changes to the Requirements

3. Corrective and preventive action: fundamental clause

The new version of the standard integrates specific requirements on corrective and preventive action (CAPA) related to root cause analysis into a structured continuous improvement approach. This way the root cause analysis is assembled in one paragraph, in line with Issue 8 of the Food Standard, emphasizing the importance of addressing issues with the intent to remove the risk of re-occurrence and supporting continuous improvement. This is a fundamental clause, which means that sites that have not implemented this clause cannot be certified. The fundamental clauses are marked with “FUNDAMENTAL”.

Continued on page 4
Ensign Corporation Celebrates 20 Years of ISO 9001 Certification

Ensign Corporation recently celebrated a big milestone in their mission for quality: 20 years of ISO 9001 registration. First registered in 1998, the company has been through three standard revisions to keep up-to-date on the strict requirements of the standard that helps them to maintain a high level of quality in their products.

The company builds a large range of products, including electrical transformers, inductors, and adapters for different industrial and commercial uses.

“There are probably Ensign transformers in your school, office, church, doctor’s, and dentist’s office, or in your local stores, museums, and restaurants, or at your favorite hotel/motel or golf course,” Steve Ensign, Vice Present of Ensign Corporation, told the Bellevue Herald-Leader during a recent feature on their impressive accomplishment.

The company has built upon its rich history that spans almost 80 years. Ensign Coil Company was founded in Chicago in 1939 by the Ensign brothers – Joseph, David, and Richard. They, along with 12 local operators on the assembly line, built coils and transformers. At the time, the electric coils were primarily for Army Field radios during World War II. When the war ended, Ensign began making transformers for commercial, industrial, and consumer electrical products.

In 1961, the company added a facility in Bellevue, IA to keep up with demand, and in 1979, all of its manufacturing moved to that facility to handle the increased production requirements. In that same year, the company name was changed to Ensign Corporation.

Fast forward to 2001, Ensign consolidated its administrative functions from the Chicago suburbs to Bellevue, and the company has expanded into more diverse industries and international markets. In 2008, Ensign Corporation became part of the three-company PowerVolt Group, which includes Wabash Transformer and PowerVolt – both located in Addison, IL.

DQS is proud to be the registrar for Ensign, a company that prides itself on quality.

There are probably Ensign transformers in your school, office, church, doctor’s, and dentist’s office...”
Weber Packaging Solutions Awarded 20 Year Certification

Weber Packaging Solutions is a leading manufacturer of custom labels and labeling systems. They recently celebrated 20 consecutive years as ISO 9001 certified with DQS Inc.

On February 26, 2019, Brad McGuire, President of DQS Inc., and Mike Curry, Regional Sales Manager for DQS Inc., presented Doug Weber, President and CEO of Weber, with a plaque commemorating their 20 years of ISO 9001 certification without a lapse. Weber’s Quality Assurance Manager, Derek Podejko, then took the group on a tour of the Weber facility to congratulate all the employees who worked to maintain the high standards needed to qualify for this honor. Vice President of Marketing, Tom Michalsen, Vice President of Manufacturing, John O’Leary, and Vice President of Finance, Chris Shealy, were part of the group thanking the Weber Team for bringing high-quality products and services to their customers.

“We believe this to be an incredible accomplishment,” commented DQS President Brad McGuire. 

Weber’s Quality Assurance Manager, Derek Podejko, states, “It’s important because it continues to provide trust between Weber and our customers. The certification provides evidence that Weber is committed to meet customer requirements, which can be accomplished with our quality management system. By identifying and defining our processes to meet ISO 9001:2015 standards, it allows us to stay consistent within our operations. The commitment from upper management allowed us to be certified to the new ISO 9001:2015 quickly and in a professional manner.”

Weber Packaging Solutions is a leading worldwide innovator in the design, manufacture, and supply of high-performance labels, labeling systems, and continuous ink jet systems for the industrial and commercial markets. Weber provides the latest in systems, software and media and supports them with direct sales, equipment service and technical assistance.

“We of the perhaps 3,000 companies that have been certified, only about 20-25 companies have made it to the 20 year mark,” said DQS President Brad McGuire. "It is a significant accomplishment."

Achieving ISO 9001:2015 certification is a benchmark for measuring the maturity of the organization’s QMS. Everyone at Weber has been working diligently to put procedures in place to meet the strict requirements of ISO 9001. Emphasis was placed on consistency in our manufacturing processes so that Weber will reliably print labels with the same high quality standards every time.

Weber Packaging Solutions

“Of the perhaps 3,000 companies that have been certified, only about 20-25 companies have made it to the 20 year mark.”
INTEGRATED AUDITS BENEFITS

Did you know you can have integrated audits when you use a single management system to manage multiple aspects of organization performance?

Benefits of integrated audits include potentially reduced onsite audit time, consistent management goals and objectives, and streamlining business processes to improve efficiency.

Organizations must have integrated documentation and an integrated approach to internal audits, policy and objectives, system processes, and improvement mechanisms.

BRC Packaging continued

Continued from page 1

4. Emphasis on product quality

BRC Global Standard for Packaging is not just a hygiene standard – its scope covers both product safety as well as product quality. Issue 6 places even more emphasis on product quality and clearly distinguishes between safety and quality. In the hazard and risk analysis (HARA), Issue 6 separates hazards into product safety and quality defects to improve control measures necessary to prevent, eliminate or reduce each product quality hazard to acceptable levels (2.2.6).

5. Product safety and quality culture

Issue 6 emphasizes the importance of the culture at a site. It does so by introducing a new clause (1.1.2). The clause requires sites to set up, execute and review an action plan to improve product safety and quality culture. This does not imply that the auditor will assess the culture of the organization, but rather that (s)he examines the efforts made to document the status of the organizational culture and the steps that are put in place to improve it.

6. Pellet, flake and powder control in the plastic industry

Section 8 of the BRC Global Standard for Packaging – Issue 6 acknowledges the importance of raw material management in the packaging industry with the intention to remove new plastic contamination from food supply chain. This regards the removal of risks of cumulative chemical contamination of the human food chain and removing the risk of starvation of fish and marine mammals. Section 8 is applicable to the conversion of polymer from pellet, the use of flake or powder and the use of hot melt glues, particle raw materials etc.

After the estimated publication of the new BRC Packaging Standard – Issue 6 in August 2019, there is a transition period of six months. The use of Issue 6 is compulsory for all certification audits taking place from February 2020 onwards. Prior to that date, it is not possible to be certified according to the new version.

DQS – Your Partner for BRC Packaging Certification

The BRC Global Standard for Packaging – Issue 6 is currently available as a Draft International Standard. As one of the leading certification bodies for management systems and sustainability standards, DQS is your natural partner for BRC Packaging 6 certification. With smooth audit planning, experienced auditors and in-depth audit reports, we will accompany you throughout the entire certification process.

Constanze Illner, Marketing & Communication Officer at DQS GmbH