



Combined vs Integrated Audits

Which Saves You More Time and Money?

Your ISO 27001 Implementation & Certification Partner

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1. The Challenge

Many organizations pursue multiple ISO certifications (e.g., ISO 27001, ISO 9001, ISO 27701, ISO 22301).

Each new standard adds requirements but also overlaps in management, documentation, and controls.

The key question: Should you combine or integrate your audits to reduce effort, cost, and complexity?

2. Understanding the Difference

Aspect	Combined Audit	Integrated Audit
Definition	Two or more standards audited together by the same team, in parallel sessions. Each standard remains separate but shares audit planning and execution.	One single management system merges all ISO standards into a unified structure. All processes, policies, and controls are shared across standards.
Documentation	Separate manuals and policies per standard, yet coordinated to minimize duplication.	A single manual, process documentation, and control framework used for all standards.
Audit Reports	Separate reports but aligned findings and observations, saving time in review.	A unified report covering all standards and shared controls.
Effort Savings	Approximately 20–30% reduction in total audit time compared to separate audits.	30–50% reduction once fully integrated and aligned.

3. Cost and Time Comparison

Auditing multiple ISO standards separately can be time-consuming and expensive. The following table illustrates potential savings when combining or integrating audits.

Stage	Separate Audits	Combined	Integrated
Preparation	100%	~80%	~60%
Audit Days	100%	~75%	~55%
Reporting	100%	~80%	~60%
Total Savings	—	20–25%	35–45%

Key Insight: Combined audits deliver fast efficiency gains for organizations extending certification scope. Integrated audits offer the highest long-term savings but require more upfront alignment and system redesign.

4. Which Option Fits You Best?

The right audit approach depends on your current certification status, number of management systems, and desired level of integration.

Your Situation	Recommended Approach
You already have one ISO certificate and plan to add another (e.g., ISO 27001 + ISO 27701).	Combined Audit
You operate multiple management systems (Quality, Environment, Security, Privacy).	Integrated Audit
You want quick savings with minimal internal change.	Combined Audit
You aim to create one unified, lean, and consistent system.	Integrated Audit

At Invero27, we help organizations choose the optimal path by analyzing overlaps, mapping shared controls, and streamlining the audit process for faster, smoother certification.

5. Your Next Step

Schedule a free audit readiness consultation. We'll help you determine whether a combined or integrated audit saves your organization more time and money.

[Book your free 30 minute call](#)

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