What is ISO 22163?
ISO 22163:2023, *Railway applications — Railway quality management system — ISO 9001:2015 and specific requirements for application in the railway sector*, has been developed by a group of international railway experts to supplement ISO 9001. Additional requirements and recommendations specific for the application of a quality management system in the railway sector are set out in the standard.

Why is ISO 22163 necessary?
ISO 22163 is an internationally agreed standard that sets out the requirements for a railway quality management system. In a global railway market, alignment to the requirements set out in ISO 22163 supports a common understanding of quality management among railway organizations, the railway industry and their suppliers. It helps to improve their organizational performance through effective use of processes and activities, gaining a competitive advantage and the trust of railway stakeholders.

The application of ISO 22163 is based on the implementation and review of defined processes and the aim to foster product quality throughout the long life cycle specific to railway. The standard requires the monitoring and review of the performance by defined performance indicators.

Who is ISO 22163 for?
ISO 22163 is applicable to the whole supply chain of the railway sector related to industrial products and services; it can be used to improve the organization and to manage external providers. It is suitable for organizations of all types and sizes, including:

1. railway operators
2. infrastructure managers
3. railway systems integrators
4. rolling stock integrators
5. maintainers and overhaulers
6. equipment manufacturers

Conformity with ISO 22163 is the responsibility of all parties within an organization.

What are the benefits for your business?
Organizations can benefit from the following by applying a railway quality management system in accordance with ISO 22163:

- Complete accountability: All stakeholders, from top management to staff, can fulfil requirements related to quality, including product safety, risk management, traceability, etc.
- Improve product quality: Organizations can benefit from improved product and service quality by enhancing their railway quality management processes. Specifically, they can achieve the following:
  - Improve product safety: Predicting risks in advance and taking preventive measures against accidents and problems can minimize the impact of defects and accidents.
  - Improve productivity: Improvements in business processes can prevent failures, reduce costs by eliminating waste and improving productivity.
  - Improve supply chain management: Efficient management of the entire supply chain enables the stable, inexpensive, and rapid procurement and supply of safe and reliable products.
• Improve reputation: Customers benefit from receiving high-quality products and services. Organizations can consequently increase customer satisfaction and so benefit from the improved trust placed in them by the customer.
• Improve international recognition: Implementing this international standard will increase international recognition of organizations and can create an opportunity to compete in the global railway market.

How can it be used?

ISO 22163 can be implemented by an organization on its own internal processes. It can also be used by an organization with external providers to ensure quality of products or services delivered to the organization. The provision of recommendations in ISO 22163 can provide a framework for continuous quality improvement within an organization.

Furthermore, verification by performance assessment based on ISO 22163 can be an effective tool to increase customer credibility. This can be done by the organization itself, the customer or an appropriate external body.