



# ENVIRONMENT

# Technological Innovation



## ABSTRACT

Developed by SOGI Informatique, IsoVision is a software allowing for an integrated management of Quality, Environment, Health and Safety (QEHS) within industries and service companies.

Comprised of integrated modules, it is a universal tool that:

- Is useful for treating any QEHS issue, regardless of the size or field of expertise of the company.
- Supports the implementation and maintenance of international standards including ISO 14001, ISO 9001, OHSAS 18001, HACCP, Responsible Care, etc.

IsoVision fosters decentralization, accountability and management by exception. The software also supports the company's continuous improvement efforts and ultimately increases its competitiveness.

## INNOVATIVE TOOLS AND PROCESSES

### ISOVISION : AN INTEGRATED COMPLIANCE MANAGEMENT SOLUTION



## HIGHLIGHTS

### Technology

- Integrated modular tool to ensure the synergy between management systems;
- Multisite, multiuser, multilanguage;
- User-friendly, durable, reliable and high-performance;
- Open system allowing data-exchange interfaces with other software or measuring instruments;
- Manager's dashboard for decision-making.

### Environment

- Continuously improves the company's environmental performance;
- Allows administrators to oversee environmental aspects, from impact assessment to performance review by upper management.

### Cost

- Facilitates the implementation and maintenance of management systems;
- Simplifies the management process;
- Improves the company's productivity and competitiveness;
- Return on investment between six and twelve months.

# PROJECT OBJECTIVES/ PHASES

When the ISO 14001 standard came into effect, computer and management system specialists designed an integrated software to assist companies in meeting the requirements of the international quality, environmental, and health and safety standards.

The design and production of each of the program units aimed at creating a universal tool that would meet the needs of users and integrate the three aspects (environment, quality and health and safety).

## History:

1998: Development and implementation of an environmental management application;

1999: Market research survey and needs analysis with focus groups;

2000: Beginning of the development phase of the IsoVision solution;

2001: Validation of the IsoVision solution on a pilot site;

2002: Commercialization of IsoVision, Version 1.0;

2006: Commercialization of IsoVision, Version 7.0;

The IsoVision software is a product whose development was supported by a team of experts.

# BACKGROUND

Today, businesses must account for their environmental, quality, and health and safety performance.

To this end, international standards such as ISO 14001 (environment), ISO 9001 (quality) and OHSAS 18001 (occupational health and safety) have been adopted.

A solution, which would enable businesses to make employees accountable (by decentralizing management) and provide an overall view to administrators, was therefore required to allow and support the implementation of these international management standards.

In this search for efficient and integrative management systems, the IsoVision software was developed.

# TECHNOLOGY

IsoVision is a modular solution whose integration guarantees the synergy and efficiency of compliance management systems. Based on reliable, high-performance and secure technologies, IsoVision is available in a multiuser, client-server, Windows-based version.

A simplified Web version that can be easily integrated into a client's intranet or extranet is also available and enables users on the inside (clients, suppliers, etc.) to interact and participate in the company's environmental management (e.g., accessing reference material, reporting a particular situation, etc.).

Companies whose activities are carried out on several sites can use the multisite version of the software to standardize tools and methods, redistribute tasks from one unit to another,

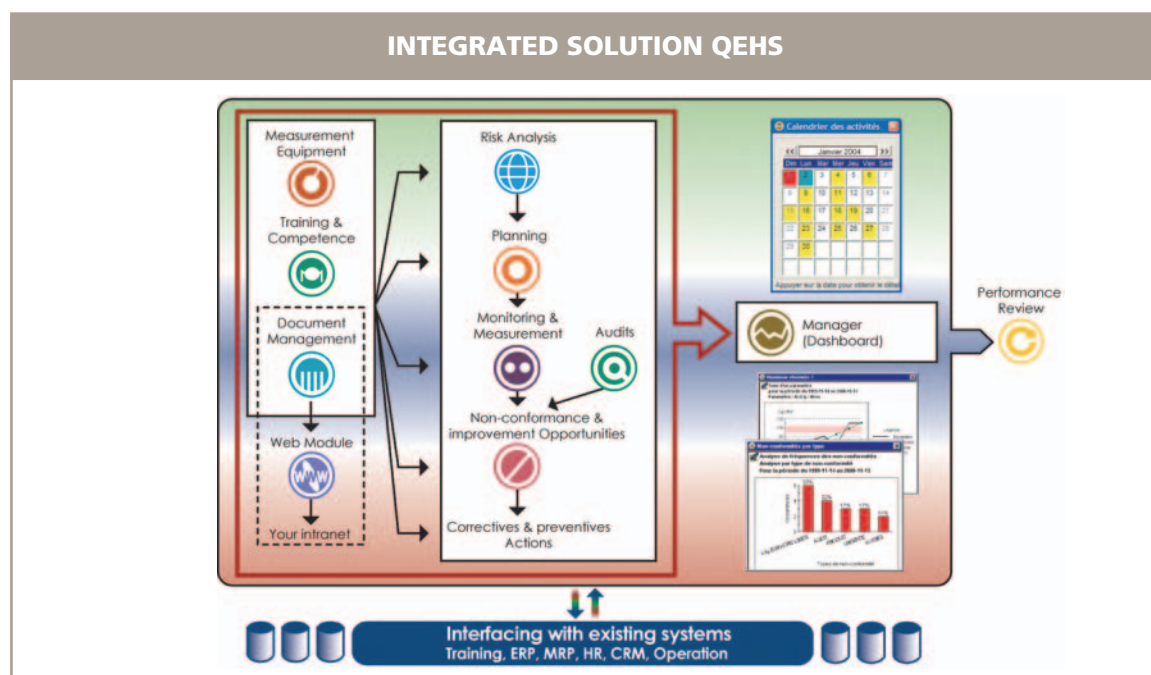
compare work unit performance and assess the overall performance of the group.

IsoVision includes the following modules:

- Diagnostic function;
- Planning;
- Monitoring and measurement;
- Audits;
- Non-compliance, corrective and preventive actions;
- Reference material management;
- Training and expertise;
- Measuring equipment;
- Meetings and management review;
- Administrator (display and activity schedule)

Other modules (performance review, supplier evaluation, etc.) will be added soon.

IsoVision is available in both French and English and is updated yearly.



# RESULTS

IsoVision facilitates the implementation and maintenance of the requirements of international management standards.

For businesses, the benefits of implementing IsoVision include:

- 15 to 70% time savings on certain tasks;
- A 10 to 20% reduction in implementation efforts;
- Savings on development, maintenance and computer-based supports;
- Improving performance and the decision-making process;
- Enhancing the company's image and reducing risks.

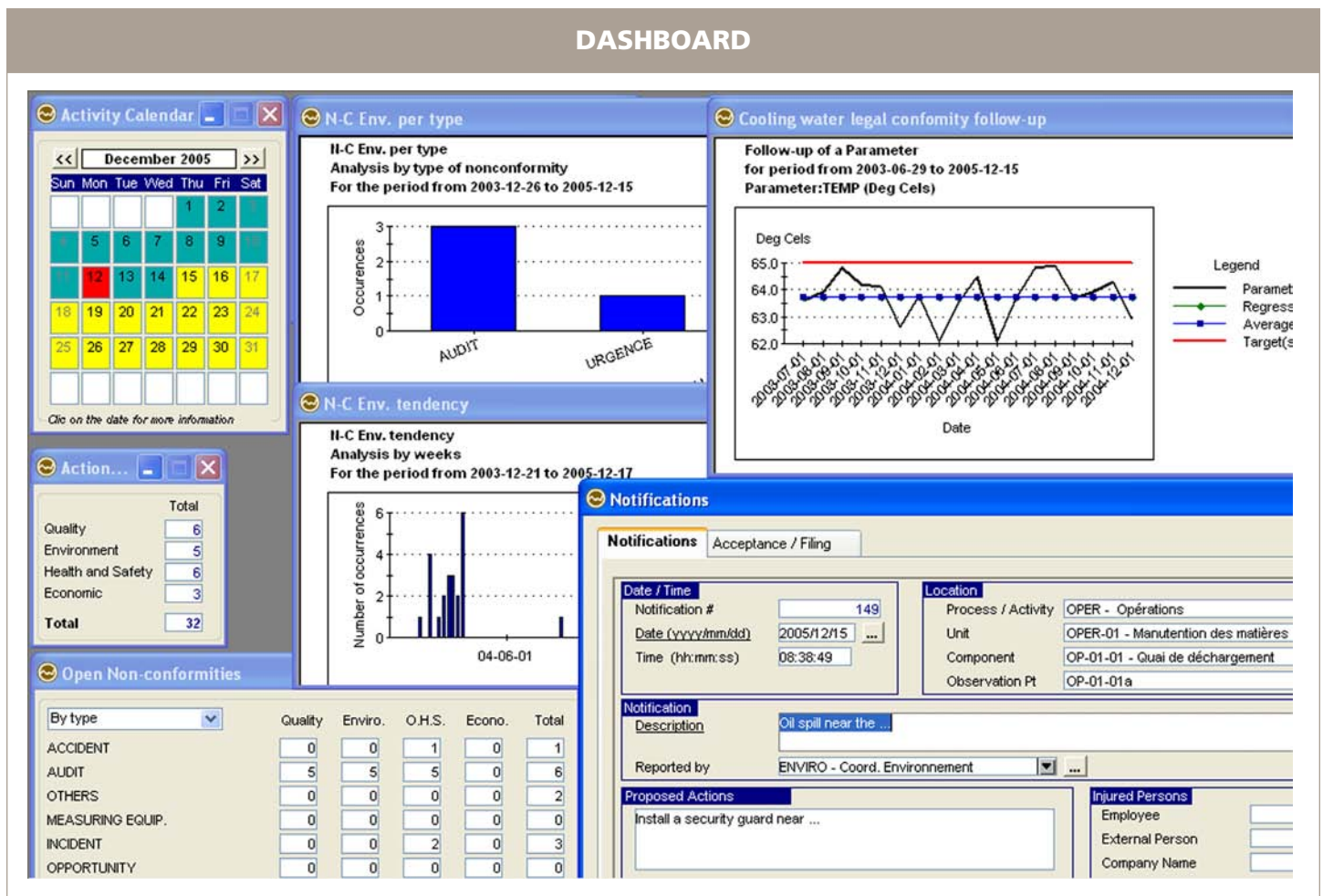
Customized and integrated tools such as a dashboard, personalized activity schedule, automatic reminders and workflow also provide the company with a secure solution focused on employee accountability and management by exception.

With IsoVision, users can also exchange information with other systems or equipment, access a report generator and benefit from shared expertise and synergies between staff and professionals in quality, environment and occupational health and safety departments.

In five years, the IsoVision solution has become the reference in business management software for its universality in intergrating QEHS and its capability of meeting the needs of numerous industrial fields.

IsoVision is currently used in many Canadian large-scale organizations and SMEs in the following industries:

- Pulp and paper;
- Metallurgy;
- Petrochemistry;
- Petroleum products;
- Automotive;
- Waste management;
- Military;
- Business services.



# POTENTIAL AND LIMITATIONS

## Potential

- Several modules can be used for needs that are beyond the scope of environmental, quality and health and safety management systems. For example, the Reference Material Management module was designed to support all of the company's documentation, while the Management Review and Meetings module coordinates all the company's ad-hoc and regular meetings;
- The software can assist a company in implementing cost management strategies for both improvement and non-compliance programs;
- The display and automatic reminders enable administrators to focus efforts on urgent matters (management by exception);
- IsoVision meets the requirements of the FDA's (Food and Drug Administration) 21 CFR Part 11, for electronic records, electronic signatures and

information traceability;

- IsoVision enables businesses to achieve governance conformity (Sarbanes-Oxley).

## Limitations

- The capacity of exchanging data with other systems (softwares or equipments) requires customized interfaces to be developed.

## INFORMATION

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The IsoVision solution was created out of a privileged partnership between SOGI Informatique Ltd., CEGEP de Trois-Rivières and the Belgo Division of Abitibi-Consolidated. IsoVision also received the support of many focus group members who helped shape the final product.

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