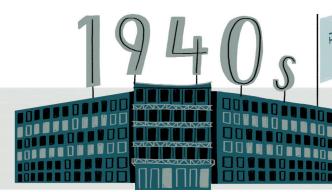As part of the CQI's centenary celebrations, we are looking at the past 100 years, focusing on each decade, to provide readers with an example of a major development that influenced the quality profession.

CQI | IRCA
LEADING QUALITY FOR 100 YEARS

1940s

The INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION for STANDARDIZATION (ISO)

The International Organization for Standardization was established in 1947, in London, by delegates from 25 countries. ISO is currently the world's largest developer of voluntary international standards.

ISO is based in Geneva, Switzerland, and has published over 22,654 international standards covering almost every industry and has members from 163 countries.

65 delegates from 25 countries meet in London to discuss the future of international standardisation.

ISO moves into an office in Geneva, called the Central Secretariat. In the early 1950s the Central Secretariat had five members of staff.

1946 **1947** **1949**

ISO officially comes into existence with 67 technical committees (groups of experts focusing on a specific subject).

The DEVELOPMENT of STANDARDS

1951 ISO publishes its first ISO standard (called Recommendations at this time) – ISO/R 1:1951 Standard reference temperature for industrial length measurements.

1960 ISO publishes the standard ISO 31 on quantities and units (which has since been replaced by ISO 80000-1:2019 – Quantities and units).

1961 DEVCO, a committee for developing country matters, is established.

1968 Correspondent membership allows developing countries to be informed of International Standardization work without the full costs of ISO membership.

1971 ISO creates its first two technical committees in the environmental field: air quality and water quality.

1987 ISO publishes its first quality management standard. Standards in the ISO 9000 family have gone on to become some of the most well-known standards.

2010 ISO launches ISO 26000, the first International Standard providing guidelines for social responsibility.

TODAY

ISO has 161 national standards bodies, 786 technical committees and subcommittees for standards development, and ISO members across the globe. The organisation says: "We bring together experts to share knowledge and develop International Standards that provide solutions to global challenges".

Illustration: Liz Kay