

ISO 9001 IMPLEMENTATION ASSISTANCE

ABOUT IRIS PLASTICS. Iris Plastics is a producer of custom blow molding solutions and is located in Hartsville, Tennessee. Privately-owned and family-run, the company has approximately 12 employees, highly-skilled professionals working collaboratively to deliver exceptional blow molding solutions. United by a shared passion for quality and a commitment to exceeding customer expectations, the experienced workforce ensures every project is handled with precision and care delivering high-quality blow molding at competitive prices by maximizing the efficiency of our equipment and leveraging readily available technology. Their machine knowledge and proactive approach ensures timely production and exceptional value.

THE CHALLENGE. Iris Plastics' primary need was for assistance organizing company documentation to meet the ISO 9001:2015 standards and preparing for a certification audit. Iris Plastics' President Carson Jones contacted Tennessee MEP, part of the MEP National Network™, for help with ISO implementation and audit preparation.

MEP CENTER'S ROLE. The Tennessee MEP Center (TMEP) provided support to Iris Plastics in achieving ISO 9001:2015 certification by delivering assistance in the following areas: organizing the policy manual, procedures, work instructions, and records; developing risk registers; and performing preliminary audits. TMEP worked with the company remotely and on-site, dedicating 48 hours of assistance over six days, including two days available for on-site support. With TMEP's guidance, Iris Plastics successfully obtained their ISO 9001:2015 certification, allowing them to consistently deliver high-quality plastic products tailored to diverse industry requirements. The ISO implementation project enhanced the plant's quality control system, resulting in improved service for existing clients. While not directly reported as immediate economic impact, the company's new ISO certification positions Iris Plastics to pursue new business opportunities, ultimately driving long-term growth and top-line revenue expansion.

"We are so glad we learned about the program and got the help we needed. Our equipment is large and expensive most contracts take months even years to procure business. We leveraged UT CIS (Tennessee MEP) to get our quality control capability up to par so that while we were installing equipment that we also were building foundation for customers to trust us and want to do business with us. Our ISO certification lays groundwork of trust during the initial conversations with potential customers as ISO is a universal language in manufacturing. We now speak the language."

-Carson Jones, President

RESULTS



\$155,000 in new investment



\$50,000 in new products



\$10,000 in training

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