Transition Plan for the ISO 9001 Revision

Why Early Preparation Is Key

ISO 9001:2026 is not a fundamental realignment, but rather a carefully considered evolution: refined, clearly structured, and more precise in key areas. While proven foundations remain in place, the new standard adds precision to key requirements in areas that are already critical to success for many organizations today.

The new standard focuses on topics such as organizational resilience, climate change, quality culture and ethical behaviour, as well as a more firmly embedded opportunity-based thinking. What is new is that these “soft” success factors are now normatively required. The organizational context must also be reassessed. Knowledge must be used and shared more actively.

What the revision means for certified organizations

ISO 9001:2026 was published on 16 September 2026 and replaces the previous ISO 9001:2015. As with earlier revisions, a three-year transition period is planned, meaning that certificates issued under ISO 9001:2015 will remain valid until 30 September 2029, subject to final confirmation by the Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated (Global ACI). Organizations should familiarize themselves with the new requirements as early as possible. They should identify where action is needed within their organization and consider relevant topics in their internal audit planning at an early stage.

Transition audits to the new standard must be planned early enough to ensure that the transition is completed and the certification decision is made before the existing certificate expires. Ideally, this is integrated into the regular audit cycle:

- ✓ at the time of the planned recertification,
- ✓ at the time of a regular surveillance audit, or
- ✓ at a freely chosen point in time.

DQS supports you throughout this process with expertise and experience. Our auditors combine technical competence with practical industry knowledge – ensuring a certification process that goes beyond formal conformity and highlights potential areas for improvement.

What You Can Already Do Today:

Stay informed about the revised standard requirements.

Subscribe to our newsletter or attend our webinars — we keep you regularly informed. Use internal audits or management reviews to identify potential areas for action at an early stage.

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Strengthen system-relevant topics, such as your performance indicator structure, your processes for assessing opportunities and risks, or your handling of external requirements.

Review and refine your strategic orientation, particularly with regard to quality culture, value-based conduct, and ethical behaviour.

Ensure appropriate training and awareness among all individuals who influence the effectiveness of your quality management system, especially your internal auditors.

Avoid unnecessary time pressure and approach the transition as a structured project supported by an implementation plan.

Strengthen your competitiveness by anticipating future requirements at an early stage. Coordinate all necessary steps for the transition with your customer representative or auditor.

Position your organization as proactive and forward-looking – towards customers, partners, and authorities.

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Conclusion

Waiting means missing out on opportunities. Organizations that engage with the new requirements at an early stage not only make the transition significantly safer, but also benefit sooner from the standard's content-related improvements.

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