

ISO 9001:2026 AT A GLANCE

The first ISO 9001 revision since 2015. A practical reference for the QMS owner preparing for the audit cycles ahead – what’s moving in the FDIS, what your existing system still does well, and where to focus before the next surveillance audit lands.

Expected Timeline

The Draft International Standard (DIS) was published in August 2025. The Final Draft International Standard (FDIS) followed in spring 2026. Publication of ISO 9001:2026 is anticipated in late 2026, with a three-year transition window expected to follow. Existing ISO 9001:2015 certificates remain valid throughout the window. The IAF will confirm the formal transition deadline at publication.

- **DIS**
August 2025
The first public draft of the revision
- **FDIS**
Spring 2026
Final text locked; member-body vote underway
- **Publication**
Anticipated late 2026
The standard becomes official
- **Transition window**
Through late 2029 (expected)
Three years to transition existing certificates

Six Conversations With Your Next Auditor

None of these requires a system rebuild. All require attention before your next surveillance and recertification audits.

Climate in Context · Clauses 4.1, 4.2

Climate change is now an explicit context determination. Document the evaluation — even if the conclusion is that climate is not material to your QMS.

Interested-Party Discipline · Clause 4.2

For each interested-party requirement, a decision is now expected: is it addressed through the QMS, or managed elsewhere? The matrix becomes a working artefact, not a static document.

Leadership, Culture & Ethics · Clauses 5.1.1, 7.1.4, 7.3

Quality culture and ethical behaviour are explicit at three points in the standard. Auditors will look for evidence of how leadership shapes decisions — not just framed policy.

Risk & Opportunity, Separated · Clauses 6.1.1, 6.1.2, 6.1.3, 9.1.3

Clause 6.1 splits into three: determine, take action on risks, take action on opportunities. Effectiveness is evaluated separately. Single-column registers will read as thin.

Change Management Closes the Loop · Clauses 6.3, 8.2.1, 8.2.4

Change management now extends to communication, resourcing, monitoring, and effectiveness review. Customer communication during disruption is explicit, not implied.

Knowledge, Awareness & Modern Work · Clauses 7.1.3, 7.1.6, 8.3

Hybrid work, iterative development, and broader organizational knowledge enter the QMS environment. Document control and design controls need to reflect how work actually happens.

What Auditors Won't Re-Examine

Most of the standard stays. If your QMS is healthy now, it's healthy after the revision.

- The Annex SL high-level structure that aligns ISO 9001 with the rest of the management-system family
- The structure of Clauses 4 through 10
- The seven quality management principles
- The Plan-Do-Check-Act cycle as the underlying logic of the QMS
- The validity of existing ISO 9001:2015 certificates through the transition window

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Six Moves Before Your Next Audit

Six practical moves that protect existing certification and ready the QMS for its first 2026 audit.

1. Brief leadership. The revision is evolutionary, not revolutionary — but the leadership culture and ethics expectations need top-management attention from the start.
2. Run a no-regrets gap review. Use the six themes as the scaffold. Identify what's already in place, what needs strengthening, and what is genuinely missing.
3. Refresh your Clause 4.1 context analysis. Add a documented determination on climate relevance. State what was considered and what was judged material.
4. Split your risk register. Give opportunity its own column, owners, actions, and effectiveness review. Don't wait for the audit to find this.
5. Strengthen change management evidence. Walk three recent changes through the full loop — planning, resourcing, communication, monitoring, review. Where the trail breaks is the gap.
6. Map your transition audit cycle. Identify your next recertification or surveillance audit and plan readiness backward from it.