

ISO 9001:2026

ANTICIPATED CHANGES



WHAT TO EXPECT

ISO 9001:2026 is the next revision of the ISO 9001 standard. It is expected to build upon the 2015 version, maintaining the Annex SL-based structure while incorporating editorial improvements, subtle shifts in emphasis and modern business considerations, such as quality culture and ethical conduct.

This revision aims to keep the standard relevant in a fast-changing environment. It is expected to improve clarity, reinforce risk- and opportunity-based thinking, and emphasize organizational resilience and stakeholder trust, helping organizations maintain a strong, future-ready quality management system.

Clause 3 – Terms and definitions

- Specific QMS-related terms may be added, reducing reliance on ISO 9000
- Annex A is likely to expand significantly to provide clause-by-clause guidance and clearer interpretation

Your action: review and align internal definitions with the terminology introduced

Clause 4 – Context of the organization

- Minor updates to enhance clarity
- Climate change considerations remain from previous amendments

Your action: Confirm that your current management system and business context analysis include environmental influences, where relevant

Clause 5 – Leadership and commitment

- Clearer focus on quality culture, ethical behavior and continual improvement, supported by the process approach and risk- and opportunity-based thinking
- Quality policy must now more explicitly reflect the organization's strategy and external context

Your action: Evaluate current quality-culture practices and update leadership messaging

Clause 6 – Planning

- Risks and opportunities may be restructured into separate clearer subclauses
- Additional clarity anticipated in guidance notes (Annex A)
- Further emphasis on planning changes to include communication of changes, monitoring and evaluation of changes, and how changes will be reviewed

Your action: Revisit how risks and opportunities are distinguished and addressed, as well as planning changes

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Clause 7 – Support

- Text restructuring is likely, with few substantive requirement changes
- New awareness requirements may include understanding quality culture and ethical behavior

Your action: prepare to refresh awareness training if needed

Clause 8 – Operation

- Minimal changes anticipated (although terminology and clause layout may be updated)

Your action: ensure traceability for updated clause references in future documentation

Clause 9 – Performance evaluation

- Mostly consistent with the 2015 version
- Expectations for detection of quality trends and performance outcomes remain relevant

Your action: confirm audit objectives and review criteria to reflect new clause framing

Clause 10 – Improvement

- Additional guidance on continual improvement incorporated, especially as linked to Clause 5 leadership expectations

Your action: consider documenting how leadership influences improvement cycles

Disclaimer

The information presented is based on the latest available requirements of the Final Draft International Standard (FDIS) of ISO 9001:2026. While SGS strives to ensure the accuracy and relevance of this content, organizations are strongly encouraged to obtain the official standard and consult with an SGS expert for specific transition guidance.