

ISO 9001:2026

ANTICIPATED CHANGES



WHAT TO EXPECT

ISO 9001:2026 is the next revision of the ISO 9001 quality management systems (QMS) 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.

The preliminary summaries of anticipated changes suggest limited new requirements, but several areas may be clarified or restructured to improve readability and implementation before the new standard is published in 2026.

Clause 3 – Terms and definitions

- Specific QMS-related terms may be included directly in the standard, reducing reliance on ISO 9000

Your action: review internal definitions once the Draft International Standard (DIS) is published.

Clause 4 – Context of the organization

- Minor refinements are expected
- Climate change considerations remain included from previous amendments

Your action: confirm that your current EMS and business context analysis includes environmental influences.

Clause 5 – Leadership and commitment

- New emphasis on promoting quality culture, continual improvement and ethical behavior (though not formally defined)
- Quality policy may be expected to reflect strategic direction and external context

Your action: begin reviewing quality culture practices and top-level messaging.

Clause 6 – Planning

- Risks and opportunities may be restructured into separate clearer sub-clauses
- Additional clarity anticipated in guidance notes (Annex A)

Your action: revisit how risks and opportunities are distinguished and addressed in planning.

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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 ethics

Your action: prepare to refresh awareness training if needed.

Clause 8 – Operation

- Minimal changes anticipated, though terminology and clause layout may be updated

Your action: ensure traceability to 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

This content is based on preliminary committee insights and internal summaries regarding the potential content of ISO 9001:2026. The Draft International Standard (DIS) has not yet been published. All proposed changes outlined on this page are subject to revision, withdrawal, or reversion depending on feedback from the DIS public consultation. Organizations are advised to treat this content as informational and non-final. SGS may update this page upon formal release of the DIS or FDIS.