

ISO 9001:2026

THE NEXT STEP IN QUALITY MANAGEMENT

A practical guide to the anticipated changes and how organizations can prepare

FROM COMPLIANCE TO QUALITY CULTURE

The 2026 revision is expected to retain the familiar QMS framework while sharpening its focus on quality culture, ethical behaviour, opportunity thinking, change management, resilience and measurable performance.

8 AREAS TO WATCH

CLAUSE 3 TERMS WHAT'S DIFFERENT More QMS-related terminology may be brought into the standard; Annex A is expected to offer stronger interpretation guidance. WHAT TO REVIEW Check terminology, definitions, manuals and internal QMS references.	CLAUSE 4 CONTEXT WHAT'S DIFFERENT Clarity updates are anticipated, while climate-change considerations remain relevant to the management-system context. WHAT TO REVIEW Refresh context, interested parties, scope and relevant external influences.
CLAUSE 5 LEADERSHIP WHAT'S DIFFERENT A stronger spotlight on quality culture and ethical behaviour, alongside process, risk and opportunity thinking. WHAT TO REVIEW Review leadership evidence, Quality Policy, communication and culture-building practices.	CLAUSE 6 PLANNING WHAT'S DIFFERENT Risk and opportunity thinking becomes more clearly differentiated, with stronger attention to planning and evaluating changes. WHAT TO REVIEW Revisit risk/opportunity methods and your change-planning process.
CLAUSE 7 SUPPORT WHAT'S DIFFERENT Limited substantive change is expected, but awareness may extend to quality culture and ethical behaviour. WHAT TO REVIEW Refresh awareness, competence and training content where appropriate.	CLAUSE 8 OPERATION WHAT'S DIFFERENT The operational framework is expected to remain stable, with some terminology and clause-layout changes. WHAT TO REVIEW Map current procedures and prepare to update clause references.
CLAUSE 9 PERFORMANCE WHAT'S DIFFERENT Performance evaluation remains familiar, with continued emphasis on quality trends, outcomes and audit objectives. WHAT TO REVIEW Check KPIs, audit objectives, criteria, analysis and management-review evidence.	CLAUSE 10 IMPROVEMENT WHAT'S DIFFERENT Continual-improvement guidance is expected to connect more visibly with leadership expectations. WHAT TO REVIEW Show how leadership decisions, findings and results drive improvement.

ISO 9001:2015 → 2026 READINESS CHECK

01	02	03	04	05
CONTEXT Is your business context current?	LEADERSHIP Can you demonstrate quality culture in practice?	PLANNING Are risks, opportunities and changes actively managed?	PERFORMANCE Do metrics show trends and meaningful outcomes?	IMPROVEMENT Can you show leadership-driven improvement?

START YOUR TRANSITION PLAN

Understand → Gap assess → Prioritise → Update → Train → Audit → Improve

As a trusted certification body, **URS** supports organizations with their ISO 9001:2026 transition through gap assessments, readiness audits, transition training and certification services.

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