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STANDARDS & GUIDANCE BRIEF · INTERNATIONAL · GUIDANCE STANDARD

ISO 19011:2026

Guidelines for auditing management systems

DOCUMENT	QES-WP-166, Rev B	DATE	November 7, 2026
ISSUED BY	International Organization for Standardization (ISO/TC 176 with ISO/CASCO)	PREPARED BY	Conner Davidson
EDITION	Fourth edition (2026), replacing ISO 19011:2018	STATUS CHECKED	October 24, 2026
INDUSTRIES	General Manufacturing, Automotive, Medical Devices, Aerospace & Defense	ONLINE	qesisbest.com/standard-iso-19011.html

NEW EDITION, 2026 Revised in 2026, with remote and technology-assisted auditing treated as a normal mode of audit. It is guidance, so there is no certification transition.

What It Covers

Guidance on auditing management systems: the principles of auditing, managing an audit program, conducting an audit, and the competence of auditors.

Who It Applies To

Any organization that runs internal audits or audits its suppliers, and the auditors who do the work.

Key Requirements

- An audit program designed by risk: frequency, sampling, and process selection justified by criticality and past performance.
- Remote audits and digital evidence handled with attention to confidentiality and access.
- Audits that test whether processes achieve their intended results, not only whether they exist.
- Auditor competence, including the digital skills remote auditing needs.

What an Auditor Asks to See

- How the internal audit program was planned, and why each process gets the attention it does.

Where Systems Fall Short

- Audit schedules that give every process the same time every year.

How QES helps. Internal audit programs redesigned to the 2026 guidance, and internal auditor training. See the internal audit service: qesisbest.com/services.html#internal-audit · +1 (401) 246-3204 · mweeden@qesisbest.com

Sources, checked October 24, 2026. Complife — ISO 19011:2026, what changes for management system audits (June 2026) — www.complifegroup.com/2026/06/22/iso-19011-2026-management-system-audit-changes; de Grandson — ISO management system revisions, 2026–2030 (September 2026) — www.degrandson.com/blog/iso-management-system-standards-revisions-2026-2030.

A summary for orientation, prepared by Quality Excellence Services. It does not reproduce or replace the standard or regulation: read the official text, which governs. Not legal advice.