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STANDARDS & GUIDANCE REPORT · INTERNATIONAL · CERTIFIABLE STANDARD

ISO 9001:2026

Quality management systems — Requirements

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ISSUED BY	International Organization for Standardization (ISO/TC 176)	PREPARED BY	Conner Davidson
EDITION	Sixth edition, published September 16, 2026 (replaces ISO 9001:2015 and its 2024 climate amendment)	STATUS CHECKED	October 24, 2026
INDUSTRIES	General Manufacturing, Automotive, Government & Defense Suppliers	ONLINE	qesisbest.com/standard-iso-9001.html

NEW EDITION, 2026 The 2026 edition was published on September 16, 2026. Certificates to ISO 9001:2015 remain valid during a three-year transition that ends on September 30, 2029. **Next:** Plan the transition audit inside your next surveillance or recertification cycle; certification bodies set their own cut-off dates for 2015-edition audits.

What It Covers

The requirements for a quality management system that consistently provides products and services meeting customer and applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, and that aims to enhance customer satisfaction through continual improvement.

Who It Applies To

Any organization, of any size or sector, that wants to demonstrate that ability or to be certified. It is also the base layer of most sector standards, including those for aerospace and medical devices.

Key Requirements

- Context: the issues, interested parties and scope of the system, including whether climate change is a relevant issue (clauses 4.1–4.3).
- Leadership: top management accountable for the system, with an explicit expectation to promote quality culture and ethical behavior (clause 5).
- Planning: actions to address risks and opportunities, quality objectives, and planned changes (clause 6).
- Support and operation: resources, competence, awareness, documented information, and control of design, external providers, production, and release (clauses 7–8).
- Performance evaluation and improvement: monitoring, internal audit, management review, nonconformity, and corrective action (clauses 9–10).

Structure at a Glance

PART	TOPIC	WHAT IT ASKS FOR
Clause 4	Context of the organization	External and internal issues, interested parties, scope, the QMS, and its processes.

PART	TOPIC	WHAT IT ASKS FOR
Clause 5	Leadership	Leadership and commitment, quality culture and ethical behavior, customer focus, quality policy, roles.
Clause 6	Planning	Risks and opportunities, quality objectives and planning to achieve them, planning of changes.
Clause 7	Support	Resources, monitoring and measuring resources, competence, awareness, communication, documented information.
Clause 8	Operation	Operational planning, requirements, design and development, external providers, production, release, nonconforming outputs.
Clause 9	Performance evaluation	Monitoring and measurement, customer satisfaction, analysis, internal audit, management review.
Clause 10	Improvement	Nonconformity and corrective action, continual improvement.

What an Auditor Asks to See

- The scope statement, with the justification for anything not applicable.
- Quality objectives with current results, and who owns each one.
- The internal audit program and the last management review, with its outputs.
- Corrective actions, from cause to verified effectiveness.

Requirements Checklist

Work down the list with the evidence in hand; write where each item is evidenced in the right-hand column.

#	REQUIREMENT	EVIDENCE ON FILE
1	Issues and interested parties reviewed, including whether climate change is relevant (4.1, 4.2).	
2	Scope documented, with any requirement deemed not applicable justified (4.3).	
3	Top management's commitment evidenced, including how quality culture and ethical behavior are promoted (5.1).	
4	Quality policy communicated and understood at the point of use (5.2).	
5	Risks and opportunities identified, with actions proportionate to their effect (6.1).	
6	Quality objectives measurable, monitored, and owned (6.2).	
7	Measuring equipment calibrated or verified, with traceability where required (7.1.5).	
8	Competence and awareness records for people whose work affects quality (7.2, 7.3).	
9	Design and development planned, reviewed, verified, and validated where it applies (8.3).	
10	External providers evaluated, selected, and monitored on defined criteria (8.4).	
11	Internal audits planned by risk and performed by auditors independent of the work (9.2).	
12	Management review inputs and outputs recorded, with decisions and actions (9.3).	
13	Corrective actions address the cause and are verified as effective (10.2).	

Implementation Roadmap

1. Gap assessment	Compare the current system with the 2026 text, clause by clause, and rank the gaps by effort.
2. Leadership and culture	Decide how top management will show quality culture and ethical behavior, and how it will be evidenced.
3. Risk and opportunity	Rework the planning process so risks and opportunities each lead to proportionate actions.
4. Update and train	Revise the procedures and records that changed, and brief the people who use them.
5. Internal audit and review	Audit to the new edition, hold a management review, and close the findings.
6. Transition audit	Book it with the certification body inside the normal cycle, well before September 30, 2029.

How It Fits With Other Requirements

ISO 9001 shares the Harmonized Structure used by ISO 14001, ISO 45001 and ISO/IEC 27001, so one integrated system can hold all four. Sector standards such as AS9100 and ISO 13485 build on its text; ISO 19011 guides the internal audits it requires.

Findings We See Most Often

- Internal audit coverage not planned on the status and importance of the processes (9.2).
- Corrective action effectiveness not verified (10.2).
- Monitoring and measuring resources not controlled (7.1.5).
- External provider controls not defined in proportion to risk (8.4).

Where Systems Fall Short

- A risk register produced for the audit and consulted at no other time.
- Management review held as a slide show, with no decisions recorded.
- Corrective actions closed on the date the action was taken, not when it was shown to work.

How QES helps. A clause-by-clause gap assessment against the 2026 edition, followed by a transition plan timed to the next certification audit. See the ISO 9001:2026 transition: qesisbest.com/services.html#transition · +1 (401) 246-3204 · mweeden@qesisbest.com

Sources, checked October 24, 2026. ISO — ISO 9001 Quality management systems — www.iso.org/iso-9001-quality-management.html; 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.