



Swiss Association
for Quality and Management
Systems (SQS)

SQS Customer support

Standard Revision ISO 9001:2026

Implementation rules

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1. Introduction

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has published on September 16, 2026 a revised version of the world's leading standard for quality management systems. This is the first revision since 2015, adapting the standard to changing conditions in the global business environment and specifically addressing the current requirements of users and other interested parties. The aim is to strengthen the long-term effectiveness of quality management systems and ensure their relevance for future challenges.

This document provides SQS customers with a concise overview of key information and recommendations to targetly adapt their management systems to the new requirements and to successfully implement the certification transition in a timely manner.

2. Key changes at a glance

The revision of ISO 9001:2026 entails the following important adjustments, which aim to make quality management systems future-proof and adapt them to current ecological, social and economic challenges:

Inclusion of key terms and definitions for ISO management systems

Section 3 of the document now contains a limited number of terms and definitions. However, ISO 9000 remains the normative reference for all terms and definitions related to quality management.

Climate-related measures

Full integration of the amendment to climate-related measures introduced in 2024 (ISO 9001:2015/Amd1:2024).

Introduction of a quality culture and ethical conduct

A quality culture and ethical conduct are now addressed within the requirements, particularly in relation to leadership and awareness-raising, as well as the environment in which processes are carried out.

Strategic Direction

A more precise link between the organization's strategic direction and the intended outcomes of the quality management system.

Separation of risks and opportunities

Risks and opportunities are distinguished more clearly from one another, with measures to address each being considered separately. The aim is to make organizations more resilient, proactive and performance oriented.

Strengthening of change management

Requirements related to changes to the quality management system have been strengthened to support the achievement of the intended results.

Additional explanatory contents in Appendix A

Appendix A has been revised to provide a more detailed explanation of the structure, terminology, and intent of the requirements across all chapters/subchapters in the form of informative text, without introducing any additional requirements.

On this basis, it is the responsibility of the organisation to identify the extent of possible system gaps and to ensure that the requirements of ISO 9001:2026 are met.

Overall, moderate adjustments have been made without any fundamental reorientation. Nevertheless, the changes should not be underestimated: the revised Annex A requires particular attention. Organisations should carefully review these adjustments and integrate them into their management system in order to ensure both compliance and to meet the growing demands for sustainable corporate governance.

3. Conversion of certification

3.1 Publication of the new standard and issue of certificates

The ISO 9001:2026 was published on September 16, 2026. Certification documents can only be issued after the extension of SQS's accreditation. This extension can take several months.

3.2 Transition period for converting certified management systems:

A three-year transition period until September 30, 2029 applies from the official ISO publication date. After this period, the previous version of the standard will be withdrawn and will no longer be valid. Until then, all requirements must be reviewed by the certification body, and a transition audit must be carried out.

For organisations with integrated management systems (ISO 9001, ISO 9001, ISO 45001), it is particularly important to plan the timing of the transition carefully so that the certification cycles of all standards remain synchronised. Therefore, do not wait until the end of the transition period, but plan the transition in good time for the next surveillance or recertification audit.

3.3 Registration for SQS initial certification after publication of the new standard

For organisations without existing certification, SQS recommends registering directly under the new ISO 9001:2026 standard. This creates a future-proof foundation from the outset and avoids subsequent conversion costs. As of March 31, 2028, no new ISO 9001:2015 certificates may be issued

3.4 Recertification audits after publication of the new standard

Once published, SQS will, where possible, conduct the regular recertification audits planned with customers in accordance with the new standard. In these cases, the renewed certificate will be valid for three years, seamlessly continuing its validity from the previous certificate.

For this to happen, all audit activities – including approval by the expert commission – must be completed before the current certificate validity. Otherwise, there'll be a break in certification, which should be avoided whenever possible.

Should a company decide to conduct a recertification audit according to the old standard version after publication of the new standard, the validity period of the certificate must be limited to the end of the three-year transition period. A certificate conversion planned and carried out in good time avoids the disadvantage of a limited certificate validity period.

3.5 Surveillance audits from publication of the new standard

Surveillance audits will continue to be conducted according to the old standard until the transition date. However, the date of the last audit before the end of the 3-year transition period must be used for the transition.

3.6 Surveillance audits from publication with conversion to the new standard

A surveillance audit conducted during the validity period of an existing SQS certificate for the purpose of converting the certificate to the new standard can be carried out as a conversion surveillance audit upon application to and approval by the expert commission. In this case, the validity remains linked to the original expiry date of the certification documents.

3.7 Audit time for conversion audits

The audit duration is determined individually on the basis of recognised criteria, such as the size and complexity of the organisation, and is communicated transparently prior to the conduct of a transition audit

4. Procedure for converting the management system

The following seven steps provide a structured basis for a successful transition to ISO 9001:2026:

1. Review the new requirements of the standard and get an overview.
2. Plan the conversion within the three-year transition period.
3. Ensure that all relevant people are aware of the changes.
4. Perform a GAP analysis to identify any system gaps.
5. Update your management system in line with the new requirements.
6. Verify the effectiveness of the adjustments as part of the internal audits.
7. Coordinate the transition audit with your SQS account manager in good time.

In Switzerland, the new standard can be obtained and licensed from the Swiss Association for Standardisation (SNV) once it has been published. It is an important basis for users to further develop their management system. www.snv.ch/en

5. Tackle and utilise further development

The revised ISO 9001 strengthens the effectiveness of the quality management system and consistently focuses on results, performance and business benefits. It promotes a clearer and more consistent risk- and opportunity-based approach to increase resilience and to better address dynamic framework conditions. At the same time, leadership, quality culture and ethical behaviour are further reinforced as key success factors of an effective QMS and anchored in organizational practices. Overall, these developments help to ensure the long-term relevance of the standard and to deepen its integration into strategic, forward-looking corporate management.

We recommend allocating sufficient time to study the revised standard. This is the only way to ensure that the desired results are actually achieved in the sense of a system-based and benefit-oriented approach. Now is a good time to launch the change project for the further development and adaptation of the quality management system. If the need for action is addressed too late, there is a risk that new requirements will only be formally documented and not effectively implemented, with correspondingly little added value for the organisation, the environment and society.

6. Services related to the revision of the standard

With a deliberately focused range of services, SQS supports its customers in the effective implementation and application of the new requirements:

- [SQS-Webinars to the standard revision](#) ISO 9001:2026 (German only)
- Basic seminar ISO 9001:2026 in the SQS training program under [Trainings, seminars and further education at SQS](#)
- SQS GAP Assessments for determining your current status
- Coordination of the conversion process as part of the joint audit planning



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