CONCEPT

ISO 9001:2026 Transition: Key Changes and QMS Migration Planning

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Technical depth: Practitioner · **Practical mode:** Case study

Introduction

The publication of ISO 9001:2026 starts a fixed transition period for every certified organisation. Most quality management systems need targeted rather than wholesale change, yet teams that misread the new requirements either rebuild documents that were already adequate or miss the clauses auditors will test first. This Core Concept course takes quality managers through each change, from quality culture and ethics to the separation of risks and opportunities, and shows how to evidence them. Participants leave with an ISO 9001:2026 Transition Plan built on a clause-by-clause gap analysis.

Course Objectives

- Explain the changes between ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 9001:2026 and the consequences for an existing certified system
- Conduct a clause-by-clause gap analysis of a live quality management system against the 2026 requirements
- Update the quality policy, objectives, risk and opportunity register and documented information to meet the revised clauses
- Plan and run a transition internal audit and management review that generate evidence of conformity
- Anticipate the nonconformities most often raised in transition audits and prepare corrective actions in advance
- Produce an ISO 9001:2026 Transition Plan with owners, milestones and a certification audit schedule

Target Audience

- Quality managers responsible for maintaining certification of a quality management system
- Management representatives accountable for reporting quality performance to top management
- Integrated management system coordinators aligning quality, environmental and safety systems
- Process owners responsible for procedures and records that the revised clauses affect
- Internal audit programme managers planning audits across the transition period

Course Outline

Day 1: Revision Context and QMS Baseline

- ISO 9001:2026 Revision Drivers and Publication Timeline
- Harmonized Structure Alignment Across Management System Standards
- ISO 9000:2026 Revised Fundamentals, Principles and Vocabulary
- Transition Period Rules and Certification Audit Implications
- Clause-by-Clause Self-Assessment of the Current QMS

Day 2: Clause-Level Changes in ISO 9001:2026

- Clause 4.1 Climate Change Consideration in Organisational Context
- Clause 5.1 Quality Culture and Ethical Behaviour Requirements
- Clauses 6.1.2 and 6.1.3: Separate Actions on Risks and Opportunities
- Clause 6.3 Planning of Changes and Clause 7.1.6 Organisational Knowledge
- Revised Annex A Guidance and Terms Integrated into Clause 3

Day 3: Migrating the Quality Management System

- Gap Analysis Matrix Mapping ISO 9001:2015 to ISO 9001:2026
- Quality Policy and Objectives Realignment to Organisational Strategy
- Risk and Opportunity Register Redesign Using ISO 31000 Principles
- Documented Information Updates Guided by ISO 10013:2021
- Quality Culture Awareness Briefing and Ethics Communication Plan

Day 4: Verifying the Transition and Avoiding Pitfalls

- Transition Internal Audit Programme with Audit Objectives per Clause 9.2.2
- Management Review Input Updates Under Clause 9.3
- Integrated System Migration Alongside ISO 14001:2026 and ISO 45001:2018
- Common Transition Nonconformities and Pre-emptive Corrective Action
- Quality Culture Maturity Indicators from the ISO 9004:2018 Self-Assessment

Day 5: Case Work and the Transition Plan

- Manufacturing QMS Case Study: Reviewing Gap Analysis Findings
- Service Organisation Case Study: Separating Risks from Opportunities
- Transition Readiness Checklist for the Certification Audit
- ISO 9001:2026 Transition Plan Drafting
- Peer Review Panel and Transition Plan Defence

Skills You Will Gain

- Standards Change Interpretation
- QMS Gap Analysis
- Quality Culture Development
- Risk and Opportunity Management
- Documented Information Control
- Transition Audit Planning
- Management Review Facilitation

Why Attend This Course

- Return with an ISO 9001:2026 Transition Plan for your own system, already challenged by peers
- Avoid rewriting procedures that already conform and concentrate effort on the clauses that changed
- Brief top management accurately on their new leadership obligations for quality culture and ethics
- Compare transition approaches with quality managers from manufacturing, service and public organisations

Conclusion

The 2026 edition changes fewer requirements than many expected, but the changes it does make, on leadership, culture, risk, opportunity and change planning, are the ones auditors will examine first. This course moves from the revision context through each clause-level change to the migration and verification work that proves conformity. The final day turns the gap analysis into an ISO 9001:2026 Transition Plan that participants can take to top management, giving a controlled and evidenced route to the upgraded certificate.