



ISO 9001:2026 Transition:

Message from KEBS: ISO 9001 has been revised to keep Quality Management Systems relevant, resilient, ethical, and responsive to today's operating environment. Clients are advised to begin early preparations for smooth transition and retention of certification.





Why ISO 9001 has been revised

- ✓ To keep **ISO 9001** relevant after more than a decade of global business, regulatory, technology, supply-chain, and stakeholder changes.
- ✓ To formally integrate the **ISO 9001:2015/Amd 1:2024** climate-change requirement into the main standard.
- ✓ To make **quality culture** an explicit leadership responsibility, not just an implied expectation.
- ✓ To emphasize **ethical behaviour, including integrity, responsible supply chains, data integrity, and trust**.
- ✓ To provide clearer structure for **risk-based thinking, opportunity planning, and stakeholder expectations**.
- ✓ To support **transparent, resilient, and practical Quality Management Systems** without requiring organizations to rebuild systems that already work.





Important timelines & milestones

- **2026: ISO/FDIS 9001** progressed to final approval activities.
- Expected publication: **ISO 9001:2026** is expected to be published on **16th September 2026**.
- Expected transition period: **three years after publication**, subject to official IAF transition guidance.
- Expected transition deadline: **in/around September 2029**, after which **ISO 9001:2015** certificates are expected to cease being valid.

What is changing?



Leadership and culture: top management will need to demonstrate commitment to a culture of quality and ethical behaviour.



Awareness: staff awareness will include quality values, culture, and expected behaviours, not just procedures.



Climate change: climate-related issues will be formally integrated into the organization's context and relevant interested-party needs.



Risks and opportunities: organizations will need clearer analysis, evaluation, and planning, including stronger attention to opportunities.



Planning changes: QMS changes will require clearer planning, communication, effectiveness checks, monitoring, evaluation, and review.



Organizational knowledge: knowledge will need to be retained, applied, shared, and linked to the intended results of the QMS.



Customer communication: communication may need to include relevant contingency arrangements where they affect customers.



External providers: supplier and outsourced-process controls will need stronger alignment with customer and interested-party requirements.



Performance evaluation: customer satisfaction, audit objectives, management review inputs, and improvement outputs are expected to be clearer.



Annex A guidance: expanded guidance is expected to help users interpret and apply requirements more consistently.



Other related standards to watch

ISO 9000:2026: Quality management fundamentals and vocabulary updated to support the ISO 9001 revision.

ISO 14001:2026: Environmental management system revision relevant for organizations with integrated management systems.

ISO 19011:2026: Management system auditing guidance revised, with implications for audit programmes, auditor competence, remote auditing, and use of technology.

ISO 45001 revision: Occupational health and safety management system standard is undergoing revision, with publication expected later.

Sector-specific QMS standards:
Organizations using ISO 9001-based sector standards should monitor sector guidance and transition expectations.



How to get started

- Brief top management and process owners on the expected **ISO 9001:2026 transition**.
- Assign a transition coordinator or team to monitor **official updates, IAF guidance, and KEBS communication**.
- Do not delay implementation if you are currently seeking **ISO 9001 certification**; build a strong **ISO 9001:2015 QMS** and transition later.
- Conduct a preliminary readiness review using major known themes: **leadership, culture, ethics, climate, risks, opportunities, change planning, knowledge, suppliers, and customer communication**.
- After publication, conduct **a formal gap analysis against ISO 9001:2026**.
- Update **training plans** for **top management, implementers, internal auditors, lead auditors, process owners, and general staff**.
- Plan **documentation updates, internal audits, management review, corrective actions, and evidence collection** before the transition audit.
- Use the transition as an improvement opportunity to strengthen **performance, resilience, customer confidence, and continual improvement**.
- Engage **KEBS** early to align your transition planning with **certification and training requirements**.



How KEBS will help you transition

- **Top management sensitization:** focused briefings for leadership on transition expectations, strategic implications, and accountability.
- **Implementers / transition training:** practical training on interpreting the revised requirements and updating the QMS.
- **General staff awareness:** simple awareness sessions to build organization-wide understanding of the transition.
- **Internal auditor training:** training auditors to audit against revised ISO 9001 requirements and updated auditing guidance.
- **Lead auditor training:** advanced competence development for auditors responsible for planning, leading, reporting, and following up audits.
- **Documentation review guidance:** support to help organizations review manuals, procedures, process maps, risk registers, objectives, audit programmes, and management review inputs.
- **Transition readiness support:** guidance to help clients prepare for certification transition audits within the official transition window.



KEBS training calendar & registration

- Visit the KEBS website: kebs.go.ke
- Check upcoming KEBS events and trainings: events.kebs.go.ke/training-calendar
- Monitor the NQI Training Calendar for **ISO 9001:2026** awareness, transition, implementer, internal auditor, and lead auditor programmes.
- Register early for public sessions or request customized in-house training for your organization.

Call to action: Do not wait for the transition deadline. Start preparing now with KEBS for a smooth, confident, and value-adding ISO 9001:2026 transition.



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