

TRANSITION GUIDE FOR CERTIFIED CLIENTS

ISO 9001:2026 Transition Guide

What changes, key dates and how to
prepare



Your partner in building a robust, safe and sustainable business.

Your transition at a glance

ISO 9001:2026 TRANSITION GUIDE

ISO 9001:2026 was published on 16 September 2026. It replaces ISO 9001:2015, and every certified organisation has three years to move to the new version. This guide explains what has changed, the key dates, what you need to do and how your transition audit will work.

3 years

to move to ISO 9001:2026

30 September 2029

ISO 9001:2015 certificates end

Evolution

not a rewrite: the structure stays the same

Key dates

- 16 September 2026** ○ ISO 9001:2026 is published
- 16 October 2026** ○ JASANZ issues its ISO 9001:2026 transition policy
- 31 March 2028** ○ Last date to receive a new ISO 9001:2015 certificate
- From 1 October 2028** ○ All your GCC audits include the transition
- 30 June 2029** ○ Last date for your transition audit
- 30 September 2029** ● **All ISO 9001:2015 certificates end**

The transition follows the mandatory requirements of Global ACI and the JASANZ ISO 9001:2026 Transition Policy. You do not need to send any form to GCC. Your account manager will contact you to plan your transition audit.



What is changing

ISO 9001:2026 TRANSITION GUIDE

The changes are evolutionary. Most organisations will find them practical and achievable with reasonable effort. The main changes are:

Quality culture and ethics

5.1.1, 7.3

Top management promotes quality culture and ethical behaviour, and people are aware of it.

Risks and opportunities

6.1.3, 9.1.3

Risks and opportunities are now handled in separate clauses, each with its own actions.

Planning of changes

6.3

Changes are communicated, and their effectiveness and results are reviewed.

Interested parties

4.2, 9.3.2

You decide which of their requirements your QMS addresses, and track changes in management review.

Customer communication

8.2.1, 8.2.4

Customers are told about contingency actions, including disruptions.

Knowledge

7.1.6

Organizational knowledge is retained, applied and shared to the extent necessary.

Internal audit

9.2.2

Each internal audit has a defined objective, as well as its scope and criteria.

What stays the same. The clause structure (4 to 10) stays the same. Climate change requirements are not new; they have applied since February 2024. A clause by clause checklist is included at the end of this guide.

What you need to do

1

Get the new standard

Buy a copy of ISO 9001:2026 from Standards Australia or ISO.

2

Find your gaps

Use the checklist at the end of this guide to compare your QMS with the changes.

3

Update your system and train your people

Make the changes your QMS needs and brief the people whose work is affected.

4

Check that it works

Cover the new and changed requirements in an internal audit and a management review.

5

Plan your transition audit

Your GCC account manager will agree the timing and method with you.

Your transition audit

ISO 9001:2026 TRANSITION GUIDE

How the transition audit works

- ✓ The transition audit can be combined with your next surveillance or recertification audit, or done as a separate audit. It may be conducted remotely.
- ✓ The GCC auditor reviews the changed requirements, any changes to your organisation and whether other changes to your QMS are needed.
- ✓ Auditors look for evidence that the changes work in practice, not just updated documents.
- ✓ You do not need to send us a gap analysis report. The auditor will ask how you reviewed the changes.
- ✓ Extra audit time may be needed. GCC will confirm this in your quotation.
- ✓ Any nonconformity against the new requirements must be closed before your new certificate can be issued.

Your certificate

At a surveillance audit

Your certificate is reissued to ISO 9001:2026 with the same expiry date.

At a recertification audit

You receive a new three year certificate to ISO 9001:2026.

On 30 September 2029

All ISO 9001:2015 certificates end, whatever expiry date they show.

If you decide not to transition

Please let your account manager know. GCC can continue to audit you against ISO 9001:2015, but your certificate will end on 30 September 2029. After that date, a new certification audit is needed.

Questions? Please contact your GCC account manager or call **1800 444 800**.

Gap analysis checklist

ISO 9001:2026 TRANSITION GUIDE

Use this checklist to compare your QMS with the changes. It is optional and you do not need to send it to GCC. It summarises the changes and does not replace the standard.

Clause	What has changed	What to review in your QMS	Status	Actions
4.1, 4.2	Climate change requirements carried into the text. Not new; required since February 2024.	Your decision on whether climate change is relevant is current and reasoned.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	
4.2 c)	New: decide which interested party requirements the QMS will address.	How you choose these requirements and where they are built into your processes.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	
4.3	Wording clarified. No new requirement.	Your scope is current, and any requirement you do not apply is justified.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	
4.4.2, 7.5	Wording on documented information changed to "available".	Evidence can be produced when needed. Your own document names can stay.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	
5.1.1	New: top management promotes quality culture, ethical behaviour and opportunity-based thinking.	Examples of leadership decisions that show this, for example when quality conflicts with cost or deadlines.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	
5.2	Reorganised. The policy must be implemented, understood and applied.	The policy reflects your context and strategy and guides daily decisions.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	
5.3	Reporting split into QMS performance (b) and opportunities for improvement (e).	Top management receives reports on both.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	
6.1	Risks (6.1.2) and opportunities (6.1.3) in separate clauses.	Both are identified, with actions and a check on whether the actions worked. One combined method is fine.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	
6.2.1	Reworded. Objectives are "available as documented information".	Objectives are measurable, monitored and documented. No separate record is needed.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	
6.3	New: communicate changes, monitor effectiveness and review results.	One recent change, from planning through communication to review.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	
7.1.3	New note: infrastructure for work done on site or remotely.	Guidance only. Consider remote work when planning infrastructure.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	

Gap analysis checklist

ISO 9001:2026 TRANSITION GUIDE

Clause	What has changed	What to review in your QMS	Status	Actions
7.1.4	New note: quality culture and ethical behaviour can influence the work environment.	Guidance only. No action is required.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	
7.1.6	Knowledge is retained, applied and shared.	Succession, lessons learned and how critical knowledge is kept.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	
7.3 e)	New: awareness of quality culture and ethical behaviour.	Induction and awareness material; staff know what to do if they see a quality problem.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	
8.2.1 e)	New: tell customers about contingency actions, including disruptions.	How and when customers are told about disruptions, and who approves the message.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	
8.2.4	Changed requirements communicated to relevant interested parties.	Changed customer requirements reach everyone who needs them, including suppliers.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	
8.3.1	New note: design and development can be iterative.	Guidance only. If you design iteratively, your design controls cover each iteration.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	
9.1.3	Effectiveness of actions on risks and on opportunities analysed separately.	Performance analysis draws conclusions on both.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	
9.2.2	Objectives defined for each internal audit.	Internal audit plans state an objective as well as scope and criteria.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	
9.3.2	New input: changes in interested parties' needs. Separate inputs on risks and opportunities.	Management review agenda and minutes cover the new inputs.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	
10	10.1 Continual improvement and 10.2 Nonconformity and corrective action.	No need to renumber your procedures.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	
3, Annex A	Core terms added to Clause 3; Annex A expanded; Annex B removed.	No action needed. Annex A is useful guidance.	☐ Met ☐ Partly ☐ Not met	

Ready for ISO 9001:2026?

gccertification.com

Talk to your GCC account manager about planning your transition audit.



HEAD OFFICE

Suite 402, 77 Pacific Highway,
North Sydney NSW 2060 Australia

T 1800 444 800