

Quality assurance

FIVE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE ISO 9001 DRAFT INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

QUALITY
ASSURED



Your Risk Management
Advantage



GET READY FOR THE NEXT EVOLUTION OF QUALITY MANAGEMENT

ISO 9001, the world's most widely adopted quality management system (QMS) standard, is undergoing revision. The Draft International Standard (DIS) introduces updates designed to strengthen risk-based thinking, reinforce leadership responsibilities and improve clarity across requirements. While the core structure remains familiar, key changes will influence how organisations plan, implement and continually improve their QMS.

Here are five key updates you need to know now.



1. STRONGER EMPHASIS ON RISK AND OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT

Clause 6.1 has been restructured to make risk and opportunity management more explicit and actionable. Requirements for determining and planning actions (6.1.2 and 6.1.3) are now clearly separated, emphasising that organisations must evaluate both risks that could hinder quality and opportunities that could drive improvement. Actions must be proportionate and integrated into QMS processes.



2. NEW CLAUSE FOR PLANNING AND MANAGING CHANGE

A new clause 6.3 – Planning of changes formalises expectations for managing change. Organisations must now assess the purpose, consequences, resource needs and effectiveness of changes to their QMS. This supports more structured, evidence-based decision making and protects system integrity during transitions.



3. ENHANCED LEADERSHIP AND CULTURE REQUIREMENTS

Top management responsibilities in clause 5.1 have been strengthened. There is clearer direction to integrate QMS requirements with strategic objectives, foster a quality culture, and promote ethical behaviour throughout the organisation. Leadership must demonstrate commitment not just through policies, but through everyday actions and communications.



4. MODERNISED TERMINOLOGY AND CLEARER STRUCTURE

The DIS introduces language updates to align with other ISO management system standards. For example, “maintain documented information” becomes “available as documented information” and the term “externally provided processes, products and services” replaces older phrases like “outsourced processes”. Clause structures have been refined to improve readability without adding new requirements.



5. SUSTAINED FOCUS ON CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT

The intent of continual improvement remains central but is now more closely tied to system outputs and performance evaluation (clause 10). The DIS encourages innovation and breakthrough change alongside incremental improvements, ensuring organisations can respond to dynamic markets and customer expectations.



START NOW

Early action will make your transition smoother when the final standard is published. Begin by:

- [Joining LRQA's Transition Club](#) for regular updates, early insights, tools and expert guidance on ISO 9001:2026 and other key standards
- Using LRQA's [ISO 9001:2026 gap analysis checklist](#) to map current processes against the draft changes
- Reviewing risk and opportunity planning and formalising your change management process
- Strengthening leadership engagement and embedding quality culture across all levels

JOIN LRQA'S TRANSITION CLUB TODAY IT'S FREE!

LRQA can help with transition training, gap analysis and expert guidance so your organisation is ready to demonstrate compliance when ISO 9001:2026 is released. →





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LRQA is a leading global risk management partner.

Through our connected risk management solutions, we help you navigate an evolving global landscape to keep you one step ahead.

From certification and cybersecurity, to safety, sustainability and supply chain resilience, we work with you to identify risks across your business. We then create smart, scalable solutions, tailored to help you prepare, prevent and protect against risk.

Through relentless client focus, backed by decades of sector-specific expertise, data-driven insight and on-the-ground specialists across assurance, certification, inspection, advisory and training, we support over 61,000 organisations in more than 150 countries.

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Visit www.lrqa.com/sg for more information or email enquiries.sg@lrqa.com



LRQA
460 Alexandra Road
mTower #15-01
Singapore 119963

