ISO 9001:2026 Transition Guide for Certified Clients

British Assessment Bureau
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The next edition of ISO 9001 builds on the established 2015 framework, refining and strengthening several areas rather than replacing the way quality management works.

What is changing?

- **Quality culture and ethical behaviour** – Greater emphasis on how leadership and the organisation's values support quality.
- **Risks and opportunities** – Clearer separation and consideration of risks and opportunities.
- **Management of change** – Strengthened requirements for planning and controlling QMS changes.
- **Context and climate change** – Organisations must determine whether climate change is a relevant issue.
- **Documented information** – Clarifications to the information and evidence needed to support the QMS.
- **Annex A** – A new informative annex provides additional clarification of structure, terminology and intent.

What will the transition involve?

1. **Prepare** – Review the changes and assess what they mean for your QMS.
2. **Implement** – Make any changes needed and retain appropriate evidence.
3. **Check** – Complete your internal audit and management review against the revised requirements.
4. **Transition audit** – Your transition will be assessed by an appropriately competent British Assessment Bureau auditor.
5. **Certification decision** – Following successful completion, your certification can be transitioned to ISO 9001:2026 in accordance with the applicable accreditation arrangements.

Indicative Transition Timeline

The dates below are **planning assumptions** based on the anticipated Global ACI transition framework and the approach established for ISO 14001:2026. Formal requirements for ISO 9001:2026 may change these dates.

Planning date	Milestone
September 2026	ISO 9001:2026 published
By end March 2027	Accreditation bodies expected to be ready to assess
By end June 2027	British Assessment Bureau expected to submit transition declarations to its Accreditation Bodies
By end September 2027	British Assessment Bureau expects its Accreditation Body transition decisions to be completed
By end March 2028	New and initial certification activity expected to move to ISO 9001:2026
30 September 2029	Transition period ends – ISO 9001:2015 certification expires

What should you do now?

Start reviewing the changes, consider their impact on your QMS, and plan your transition activity. **You do not need to wait for the final accreditation arrangements to begin preparing.**

Indicative information – subject to formal transition requirements