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ISO 9001:2026 Awareness Checklist

Is your team ready for the 2026 edition?
A two-page self-check for quality managers, team leads and top management. Tick each item you can show evidence for today. Every unticked box is a gap to close before your transition audit.

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Part 1. The facts everyone should know

- [ ] ISO 9001:2026 was published on **September 16, 2026**. It replaces ISO 9001:2015.
- [ ] It keeps ISO's **Harmonized Structure** (Clauses 4 to 10), the same layout as ISO 14001:2026.
- [ ] Transition deadline for ISO 9001:2015 certificates: **September 30, 2029** (Global ACI and ANAB, US).
- [ ] In Canada, under SCC accreditation, ISO 9001:2015 becomes obsolete on **September 15, 2029**.
- [ ] From **March 31, 2028**, new and initial accredited certificates are issued to ISO 9001:2026 only.
- [ ] The real deadline is your **last scheduled surveillance or recertification audit** before those dates. We know which audit that is.

Part 2. Leadership and quality culture (Clause 5)

- [ ] Top management can explain how they **promote a quality culture and ethical behaviour**, with examples from day-to-day decisions (Clause 5.1).
- [ ] Our **quality policy** is clearly linked to our context and strategic direction, and it is actually applied, not just posted (Clause 5.2).
- [ ] Roles, responsibilities and authorities for the QMS are assigned and understood, including who reports on performance and on opportunities for improvement.
- [ ] People can raise a quality problem, including one they caused, without fear of blame.

Part 3. Risks *and* opportunities (Clause 6.1)

- [ ] We treat **risks and opportunities as two separate things**, not one combined list.
- [ ] We can show at least one opportunity we identified and acted on, not only risks we controlled.
- [ ] Changes to the QMS are planned, and we check the effect of each change.
- [ ] Climate change has been considered as part of our context and interested parties (Clauses 4.1 and 4.2, added by the 2024 amendment and carried into 2026).

Part 4. Awareness: can every person answer these? (Clause 7.3)

Ask a sample of people across shifts, sites and roles, including temporary and contract staff. Each person should be able to explain, in their own words:

- [ ] a) the **quality policy**
- [ ] b) the **quality objectives** that apply to their work
- [ ] c) how their work **contributes** to the effectiveness of the QMS and the benefits of improved performance
- [ ] d) what happens when work **does not conform** to requirements
- [ ] e) **NEW in 2026:** the organization's **quality culture and ethical behaviour**, and what it means in their own job

Part 5. Support, records and review

- [ ] Our team has read or been briefed on the new **Annex A**, which explains key terms and the intent of the requirements.
- [ ] Organizational knowledge is kept, shared and used where it matters (not locked in one person's head).
- [ ] Our **internal audit program** has been updated to cover the 2026 changes.
- [ ] Our next **management review** has the 2026 transition on the agenda, with owners and dates.
- [ ] We have asked our **certification body** when it will be accredited for ISO 9001:2026 and how much audit time the transition will add.

Part 6. If you also hold ISO 14001

- [ ] We know ISO 14001:2026 was published April 15, 2026, with a transition deadline of **April 30, 2029** (Global ACI and ANAB) and **April 15, 2029** under SCC, earlier than ISO 9001.
- [ ] We plan to review the shared Harmonized Structure clauses **once for both standards**, rather than running two separate projects.

Your score

20 or more ticks: you are in good shape. Confirm dates with your certification body.
12 to 19 ticks: start a structured gap assessment this quarter.
Fewer than 12: build a transition plan now, sequenced to your audit calendar.

Next step

Paradygm Consulting offers a combined **ISO 9001:2026 + ISO 14001:2026 transition gap assessment**: one review of both systems against the 2026 editions and one prioritized action plan.

Guaranteed Certification within the first attempt.
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This checklist is a general awareness aid. It is not a copy of ISO 9001:2026 and does not replace the standard. Buy the standard from ISO or your national standards body. Dates reflect Global ACI, ANAB and SCC publications as of November 2026; confirm them with your certification body. © 2026 Paradygm Consulting.