



ISO 9001:2015 Transition Process

Background

The ISO 9001 standard was published on 15-09-2015 and was rewritten, completed with a new structure, new numbering scheme, new requirements.

Purpose

This document provides guidance for currently certified organizations for the transition from ISO 9001:2008 to ISO 9001:2015.

Main Changes

The main changes in the new version of ISO 9001:2015 are:

- Utilizing simplified language to aid in the understanding of ISO 9001:2015 and establish consistent interpretations of the standard's requirements;
- the standard is based on a new high-level structure which standardizes sub-clause titles, core text, common terms and core definitions to enhance compatibility and alignment with other ISO management system standards;
- less emphasis on documents;
- Increased emphasis on organizational context
- An explicit requirement of risk-based thinking to support and improve the understanding and application of the process approach.

What do you need to do?

To maintain your Certification with the ISO9001 standard, you will be required to comply with ISO 9001:2015 within three years from the publication date (from 15-09-2015 to 15-09-2018). We encourage you to develop a Transition Plan and to start implementing ISO 9001:2015 according to the ISO 9001:2015 standard not to leave everything to the last minute. When implementing a transition plan, the following steps are recommended:

- Identify organizational gaps which need to be addressed to meet with the new requirements.
- Develop an implementation plan.
- Provide appropriate training and awareness for all parties that have an impact on the effectiveness of the organization.
- Update the existing quality management system (QMS) to meet the revised requirements and provide verification of effectiveness.

What will ESQ CERT Ltd do?

ESQ CERT Ltd will implement the following 'upgrade' plan:

1. ESQ CERT Ltd Lead Assessor will spend the same time as a re-certification audit and this will be performed during a routine Surveillance or Recertification Assessment. Transition audit can be conducted after 1 March 2016 to assess your management system preparedness for the changes. All assessments done before the 14th September 2017 will assess your management system's preparedness for the changes. After 15-09-2017 all new certificates will be issued according to the new standard.
At this stage any findings of Non-Conformance with ISO 9001:2015 will be reported as an Observation.



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3. Findings of Non-Conformance with ISO 9001:2015 raised during Surveillance or Recertification Assessments undertaken after 1st September 2017 will be raised as a Non-Conformance and graded accordingly. To facilitate this, all Non-Conformances raised shall be closed-out before June 1st 2018. This will provide sufficient time for the decision making process to be completed before the 1st September 2018 expected deadline for transition.
4. Additional visits to assess solely against ISO 9001:2015 are not normally required. The implementation should be verified during normal scheduled Surveillance or Recertification Assessments. However, additional assessments may be necessary for an organization requesting certification within an accelerated time frame or where the organization's lack of progress will not ensure that the transition deadline will be met.

FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions

How much time and resource do I need to undertake the transition?

The degree of change necessary will be dependent upon the maturity and effectiveness of your management system including organizational structure and practices, therefore an impact analysis / gap assessment is strongly recommended in order to identify the required resource and time implications.

I'm currently considering to extend the Scope of Certification to include a new function(s) / site(s) – what should I do?

Continue as planned – you have three years of transition starting from the 15th September 2015. You can be certified against ISO 9001:2008 during the transition period. The expiry date of certifications to ISO 9001:2008 issued during the transition period will correspond to the end of the three year transition period. It's good idea to become familiar with the ISO 9001:2015 as you are building your system so you can easily upgrade to the new standard.

When can I be certified?

By March 2016 ESQ CERT Ltd needs to be accredited by ESYD for this new standard in order to issue accredited certificates. However, ESQ CERT Ltd can issue unaccredited certificates which can then be assessed by ESYD and if accepted, we can then reissue to you an ESYD accredited certificate.

Contact us

Should you have any questions about your transition plan, please don't hesitate to contact ESQ CERT Ltd to:

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