TRANSITION REQUIREMENTS FOR ISO 9001:2026

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FURTHER INFORMATION

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose: All documents that provide information on transitions of normative documents will be mandatory documents to be followed by Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated (Global ACI) Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MRA) Accreditation Body (AB) signatories and accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs), with the scope as detailed in this document. This document was developed by an appointed task force of Global ACI, in accordance with TECH-3-018 *Requirements for Producing Global ACI Mandatory Documents on Transitions.* Note: TECH-3-018 is the Global ACI equivalent to PR 7, published under the International Accreditation Forum (IAF).

1.2 Scope: This document provides information on the transition from ISO 9001:2015 including Amd1:2024 to ISO 9001:2026. The document is mandatory for all Global ACI MRA AB signatories and accredited CABs.

2. TRANSITION REQUIREMENTS

Normative Document:	ISO 9001:2026
Replacing:	ISO 9001:2015 including Amd1:2024
Current Status (at time of document publication):	Published in September 2026
Transition Period:	Three years

3. SUMMARY OF KEY CHANGES

3.1 Key Changes Include but Are Not Limited To:

- Alignment with Annex SL and TMB resolution 16/2025.
- Changes to Terms & Definitions to align with Harmonized Structure.
    - Quality-specific terms have been added for quality management system, quality policy and quality objectives. ISO 9000 remains the normative reference for all quality terms and definitions.
- Incorporated new phrase for documented information & clarified ‘documented information shall be available’.
- Annex A (Informative) has been modified to provide clarifications on the requirements of ISO 9001:2026 and Annex B has been removed.
- Clauses 5.1.1, a) – k) have been reorganised with the introduction of a new i) promoting quality culture and ethical behaviour and the modification of promoting “continual” improvement instead of promoting “improvement”. The original NOTE has been revised editorially. A new NOTE 2 has been added: “An organization's quality culture and ethical behaviour are reflected in its shared values, attitudes, and established practices.”

- Clause 5.2.1 relocated elements from a) and added them to “e) takes into account the context of the organization and supports its strategic direction”.

- Clause 6.1 has been reorganised and now includes: “6.1.1 Determining risks and opportunities”, “6.1.2 Actions to address risk” and “6.1.3 Actions to address opportunities”.

- Clause 6.3, second paragraph now begins “To ensure changes are implemented effectively to achieve intended results” and a new “e) How the effectiveness of the changes will be monitored and evaluated”; “f) communication of the changes”; and “g) how to review the results of the changes”.

- Clause 7.3 now includes e) organizational quality culture and ethical behaviour.

- Clause 9.3.2 replaces “shall be planned and carried out taking into consideration:” with “shall include”; adds a new c) changes in needs and expectations of interested parties that are relevant to the quality management system; and reorganises the new d)-g).

3.2 The Impact of Changes:

The overall changes to the document are minimal; therefore, it is expected that organisations will find changes to requirements of the standard to be largely intuitive, practicable, and depending on the organisation’s context and objectives, attainable with reasonable effort. The impact and risk may differ by organisation; it is the certified organisation’s responsibility to determine the changes to its context and management system.

As an industry, there are more than one million accredited ISO 9001 certificates, and it is widely used and adopted by several sectors/industries and schemes, including aviation space and defence (AS/EN/JISQ/IA 91XX), telecommunications (TL 9000), automotive (IATF 16949), railway (ISO 22163); petroleum, petrochemical and natural gas-related products and services (ISO 29001). This means CABs will need to invest considerable effort—including audit time and administrative resources—to transition their certified clients.

Given these factors, a three-year transition period will provide sufficient time to manage the transition effectively, while minimising disruptions caused by this change.

4. KEY TIMESCALE (DETAILS INCLUDED IN FOLLOWING SECTIONS)

Activity	Due Date
ISO 9001:2026 Publication Date	*Expected third quarter 2026*
AB to be ready to assess and to support the revised version of ISO 9001:2026 and announce their transition process by:	*As soon as possible, no later than six (6) months (31 March 2027) from the last day of the publication month of ISO 9001:2026*
CABs to submit transition declaration (Annex A, or AB established equivalent) and supporting documents to AB for transition for ISO 9001:2026 by:	*Nine (9) months (30 June 2027) from the last day of the publication month of ISO 9001:2026*
AB transition decisions of CABs completed	*12 months (30 Sept 2027) from the last day of the publication month of ISO 9001:2026*

Accredited certification by CAB is permitted to the revised version of ISO 9001:2026, following	*Transition of the CAB's accreditation by their AB*
New / Initial certifications by CAB shall only be to the revised version of ISO 9001:2026 following this date Note: No new ISO 9001:2015 certifications can be issued following this date, CABs will have to plan accordingly when scheduling initial stage 1 and 2 audits.	*18 months (31 March 2028) from the last day of the publication month of ISO 9001:2026*
CAB transitions of certified clients, through either a scheduled audit (surveillance or recertification) or during a special transition audit, including certificate issuance, prior to this date	*36 months (30 Sept 2029) from the last day of the publication month of ISO 9001:2026*
Data required to be submitted to Global ACI (if considered relevant)	Upon Request

5. TRANSITION PROCESS

5.1 Accreditation Body Actions and Process

The table below outlines the minimum requirement for AB transition of an accredited CAB and was developed in accordance with the risk-based approach outlined in IAF PR 7 (Global ACI TECH-3-018). Although there is no additional activity required beyond what is outlined here, it is noted that an AB may impose additional requirements for the CABs they accredit, in order to address the risk(s) of the associated CAB (e.g. previous performance, complaints, incomplete submissions).

AB Activity	Yes / No	Notes
AB Actions / Arrangements	Yes	AB shall: a. Establish their transition arrangement for ISO 9001:2026 considering the requirements of this document. b. Plan and prepare to be ready to assess to the revised version at the earliest opportunity and at latest six (6) months (31 March 2027) from the last day of the publication month of ISO 9001:2026. c. Identify the changes between new and previous versions. d. Ensure timely communication with CABs on required transition arrangements. e. In keeping with this Global ACI transition document, utilise a CAB declaration including requiring supporting documents for transition, see Annex A, or AB established equivalent.

		f. Execute needed training and demonstrate competence of assessors and other relevant staff. g. Make available to Global ACI, upon request, data and detail related to the transition (e.g. at key due dates providing number of CABs and certified organisations transitioned versus not transitioned). Note: It is the AB's responsibility to demonstrate to Global ACI, through special request or the normal scheduled peer evaluation activity, that it is adequately addressing requirements and competence needs for the revised version.
CAB Document Review	No	Not required for this transition.
CAB's Technical Document Review	No	Not required for this transition.
CAB's Head Office Assessment	No	Not required for this transition. The CAB's head office assessment following the transition decision shall focus on the verification of the implementation of the transition arrangement and declaration, including progress of the transition for certified clients.
CAB's Witnessed Assessment(s)	No	Not required for this transition. Following the transition decision, at least one witness assessment (but preferably all witness assessments if available) shall be an audit to ISO 9001:2026 before the transition end date.
AB Transition Decision	Yes	a. ABs are required to make a transition decision, based on the declaration (Annex A, or AB established equivalent) and supporting documents provided by the CAB. b. Transition decisions, including issuance of the accreditation documents (e.g. certificate), are required to be completed 12 months (30 Sept 2027) from the last day of the publication month of ISO 9001:2026 as identified above. c. If required, additional follow-up may take place during normal scheduled assessment activity. d. In cases of extenuating circumstances or based on risk, at the discretion of the AB, the AB may require additional transition activity prior to the transition decision. For example, if a CAB's accreditation is suspended, the decision may not be able to be made through a declaration, and further follow-up (e.g. assessment) may be required prior to a transition decision.

Others	No	N/A
Is extra time likely to be needed for the transition?	No	Not required for this transition
Impact to Accreditations	Yes	a. Accreditations for the previous version of the document are no longer valid after the transition end date; 36 months (30 Sept 2029) from the last day of the publication month of ISO 9001:2026. b. All new accreditation activity shall be to the revised version per the timeline above.

5.2 Conformity Assessment Body Actions and Process

CAB Activity	Yes / No	Notes
CAB's Actions / Arrangements	Yes	CAB shall: a. Establish their transition arrangement for ISO 9001:2026 considering the requirements of this document and the transition arrangement provided by their AB. b. Develop transition plan to address the following: • Identify the changes between revised and previous version. Typical processes considered for changes can include sales/quoting, auditing process, competence management. • Actively communicate, throughout the transition process, with existing certified clients on the transition process, expected actions and timelines. • Analyse impact of changes on relevant activities / processes and identify required actions to ensure conformance (e.g. management system/documents, IT tools). • Implement required actions. • Ensure that relevant personnel affected by the changes are trained and competent for the revised version and the CAB's transition process. Relevant personnel may include sales personnel, auditors, technical reviewers, decision makers and contract/application reviewers. c. Declare, to their AB, their readiness for the transition, using the attached declaration template (Annex A, or AB established equivalent) within nine (9) months (30 June 2027) from the last day of the publication month of ISO 9001:2026.

		d. In addition to the declaration, provide their AB required supporting documents. As a minimum, evidence to support the declaration (Annex A or AB established equivalent) including a transition plan, updated CAB documentation to support the revised certification program for competence, audit duration changes, and control of the certificate. Note: It is the CAB's responsibility to demonstrate, to their AB, it is adequately addressing requirements and competence needs for the revised version.
Transition audit	Yes	a. CAB shall conduct a transition audit for their certified clients. This transition audit may be conducted in conjunction with the certified organisation's surveillance audit, recertification audit or through a separate special audit. b. The transition audit shall include a review of, but not be limited to: • The changed requirements of ISO 9001:2026 (compared to the previous version); • Changes to the organisation's context; and • The need for any other changes to the client's management system. c. CAB may conduct the transition audit remotely, through ICT methods per IAF MD 4 (Global ACI TECH-3-003), if they ensure and can demonstrate the transition audit objectives are met.
Is extra time likely to be needed for the transition?	Possibly	a. The CAB shall consider if additional time is needed including justification for the calculation; in accordance with ISO/IEC 17021-1 and IAF MD 5 (Global ACI TECH-3-004). b. In determining if additional audit time is needed, the certification body shall consider, at a minimum, the degree of change to the client's management system and whether the transition audit is conducted in conjunction with an annual audit or through a special audit. Note: Additional time may not be needed for a full system audit.
Accredited Certification Impact	Yes	a. Following the AB's transition of the CAB's accreditation, the CAB shall make the transition certification decision based on the results of the transition audit, and any other applicable information. b. Accredited certifications for the previous version of the document are no longer valid 36 months (30 Sept 2029) from the last day of the publication month of ISO 9001:2026, the transition end date.

		Note: It is not necessary to modify current / existing ISO 9001:2015 certificates to reflect an expiry prior to the certification cycle based on this requirement; however, to reduce marketplace confusion, modification of the certificate to reduce the validity (i.e. change the expiry date) may be considered by the CAB.

6. OTHER

6.1. If an AB is not ready as required in this document, the AB shall notify Global ACI. Global ACI shall take immediate action to not delay the transition process, including requiring the AB to notify all affected accredited CABs in writing. This notification must include the delay and an explanation of the potential impact/s on their accreditation.

6.2. If an accredited CAB does not intend to transition to the revised version, the CAB shall notify their AB as early as possible. At a minimum, the CAB shall notify their AB in writing prior to the CAB Transition Deadline defined in this document. The CAB's accreditation shall be withdrawn at the end of the transition for the applicable document.

6.2.1. A CAB that decides not to transition shall inform all affected clients of this decision, in writing (e.g. email), within nine (9) months (30 Jun 2027) from the last day of the publication month of ISO 9001:2026. This shall include, as a minimum, further information on certificate validity period and information on the consequences of not transferring or transitioning.

6.2.2. The AB and CAB shall implement their respective accreditation and certification withdrawal processes to take effect at the end of the transition period (i.e. three years from the last day of the publication month of ISO 9001:2026).

6.2.3. Accreditations for the previous version of the document shall no longer be valid after the transition end date.

6.3. If an accredited CAB fails to notify their AB about the CAB's intention to not transition (section 6.2) and/or fails to complete any of the transition requirements (including the timelines) defined in their AB's communicated requirements (including this mandatory document), the AB shall take appropriate action based on the risk associated with the CAB's delay/s.

6.3.1. At a minimum, the CAB must notify all affected clients in writing. This notification must include the delay and an explanation of the potential impact/s on their certification.

6.4. If a certified organisation chooses not to transition their certification to the revised version of ISO 9001, the CAB may conduct their audit/s against the previous version.

6.4.1. In such cases, the CAB shall inform the client that their certification will expire at the end of the transition period.

6.4.1.1. Where an organisation has declared they will not transition to the revised version, their certification may not extend beyond the end of the transition period; therefore, the certification may not remain valid for the entire certification cycle, if it currently expires after the transition period is over.

Note: To reduce marketplace confusion, modification of the certificate to reduce the validity (i.e., changing the expiry date) may be considered by the CAB.

6.4.2. All other requirements of the CAB's accredited certification process shall still apply until the end of the transition period when the accredited certification shall be withdrawn.

7. AMENDMENT TABLE

Section	Previous Version	Summary Of Changes
All	-	Initial issue of document

ANNEX A

Declaration by Accredited Conformity Assessment Body for ISO 9001:2026 Transition

I (name below) declare that from the date of this declaration, CAB (CAB name below):

- Has implemented changes required under this transition,
- Conforms with the requirements necessary for transition, and
- Can demonstrate evidence of implementation.

I further acknowledge that:

- AB, which CAB is accredited by, will review the implementation of transition against this declaration at the next assessment(s).
- A declaration that is false or cannot be substantiated is a breach of the Conditions of Accreditation and is grounds for required corrections and corrective actions. If not properly resolved within set timelines this will be grounds for suspension or withdrawal.
- The following activity has been completed:
  - Transition Plan
  - Documentation revised to support transition and/or revised requirements
  - Necessary competence has been determined for the revised document and CAB has sufficient number of auditors and other personnel (e.g. application reviewer, certification decision maker) deemed competent to support the revised certification program.
  - CAB has a process to determine audit duration that supports the revised certification program (if applicable).
  - CAB has a process to manage control of certifications to the revised document that includes (a) issuing accredited certificates only after the AB transition decision, (b) managing previously issued certificates to prevent confusion on certificate validity period and (c) ensuring certificates are appropriately withdrawn when an organisation does not transition within the required timeline.

Signature:	
Name:	
Title:	
CAB Name:	
Date:	