

ISO 9001:2015

Your implementation guide



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...making excellence a habit.™

ISO 9001 is the world's most popular management system standard

Updated in 2015 to make sure it reflects the needs of modern-day business, [ISO 9001](#) is the world's most popular quality management standard. It's an excellent framework to help manage your business effectively so that you can be operationally resilient, build long-term success, and ensure customer satisfaction. It's suitable for businesses of all sizes – from manufacturing to service providers – and it's designed to be really flexible so you can make it work for the needs of your business and continually improve.

At BSI we have the experience to help make sure that you get the most from [ISO 9001](#), in fact it was our experts who helped shape the standard in the first place.

This guide shows you how to implement [ISO 9001](#) in your business and get the most out of it for the long term. We also showcase our additional support services, which help you not only achieve certification, but unlock further business improvements after certification.

“The new version of the standard has been incredibly useful to us.”

Mark Kennedy, Programme Director, Salus

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How ISO 9001 works and what it delivers for you and your company

ISO 9001:2015 is the new business improvement tool that helps drive continual improvement and deliver results in your organization. It helps your business stand out, gain a competitive edge, and grow.

It's more than a quality management system, it's a complete operational tool designed to improve performance. It uses a process approach to ensure customer satisfaction and places quality right at the heart of your organization, complementing business strategy and helping enhance performance over time. This has been designed with the needs of modern businesses in mind. It provides a framework which helps you to focus on ensuring you anticipate your business environment and customer needs. It's flexible and agile so you can make it work for your business. That's how ISO 9001 really adds value.

Benefits of ISO 9001*

Better products and services

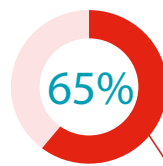


66%
Improving your products and services

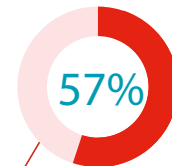


60%
Reducing the likelihood of mistakes

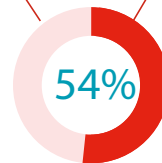
Better for business



Inspiring trust in your business



Attracting new customers



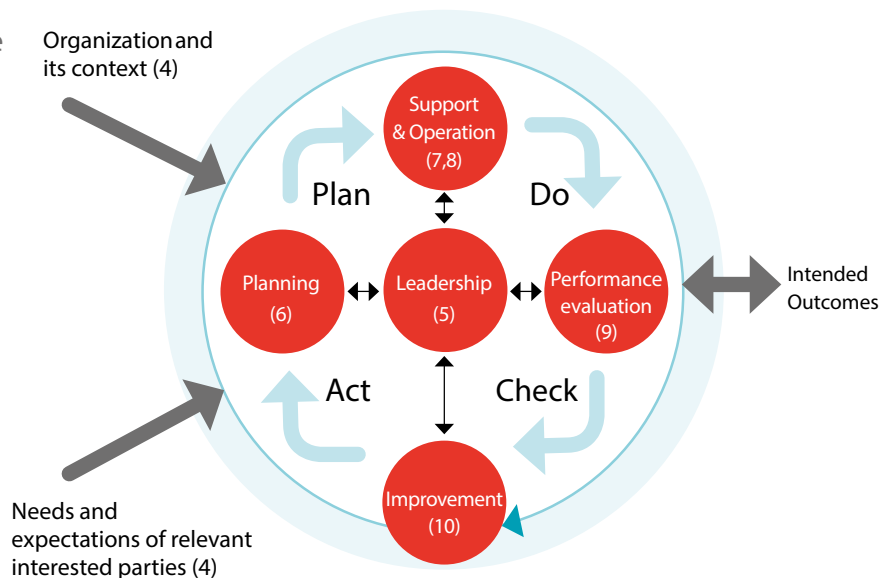
Increases your competitive edge



How ISO 9001 works

ISO 9001 was revised in 2015 to bring it up to date with the needs of modern businesses and to add even more value. It's based on the high level structure (Annex SL) which is a common framework for all new management system standards. This helps keep consistency, align different management system standards, offer matching sub-clauses against the top-level structure and apply common language across all standards. It makes it easier for organizations to incorporate their quality management system, into core business processes, make efficiencies, and get more involvement from senior management.

Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) is the operating principle of ISO 9001. It's applied to all processes and the QMS as a whole. This diagram shows how Clauses 4 to 10 of ISO 9001 can be grouped in relation to PDCA.



Some of the core concepts of ISO 9001:2015 are:

| Concept | Comment |
|--|---|
| Context of the organization | Consider the combination of internal and external factors and conditions that can have an effect on an organization's approach to its products, services, investments and interested parties. |
| Issues | Issues can be internal or external, positive or negative and include conditions that either affect or are affected by the organization. |
| Interested parties | A person or organization that can affect, be affected by, or perceive themselves to be affected by a decision or activity. Examples include suppliers, customers or competitors. You may refer to them as stakeholders. |
| Leadership | Requirements specific to top management who are defined as a person or group of people who directs and controls an organization at the highest level. |
| Risk associated with threats and opportunities | Refined planning process replaces preventive action and is defined as the 'effect of uncertainty on an expected result'. |
| Communication | The standard contains explicit and detailed requirements for both internal and external communications. |
| Documented information | The meaningful data or information you control or maintain to support your QMS. |
| Performance evaluation | The measurement of quality performance and the effectiveness of the QMS, covering the methods for monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation, as applicable, to ensure valid results. |
| Nonconformity and corrective action | Evaluation of nonconformities and correct actions. |
| Management review | Will need to be carried out, with requirements relating to inputs and outputs of the review. |

Key requirements of ISO 9001:2015

Clause 1: Scope

The first clause details the scope of the standard.

Clause 2: Normative references

ISO 9000, Quality Management System - Fundamentals and vocabulary is referenced and provides valuable guidance.

Clause 3: Terms and definitions

All the terms and definitions are contained in ISO 9000:2015 – Quality Management – Fundamentals and vocabulary.

Clause 4: Context of the organization

This clause establishes the context of the QMS and how the business strategy supports this. “Context of the organization” is the clause that underpins the rest of the standard. It gives an organization the opportunity to identify and understand the factors and parties in their environment that support the QMS.

The starting point is to identify all external and internal issues relevant to your QMS. Then you need to establish all “interested parties” and how they are relevant to your QMS. You might refer to them as stakeholders. You will also need to decide on the scope of your QMS. This may be the whole of your organization or specific, identified functions.

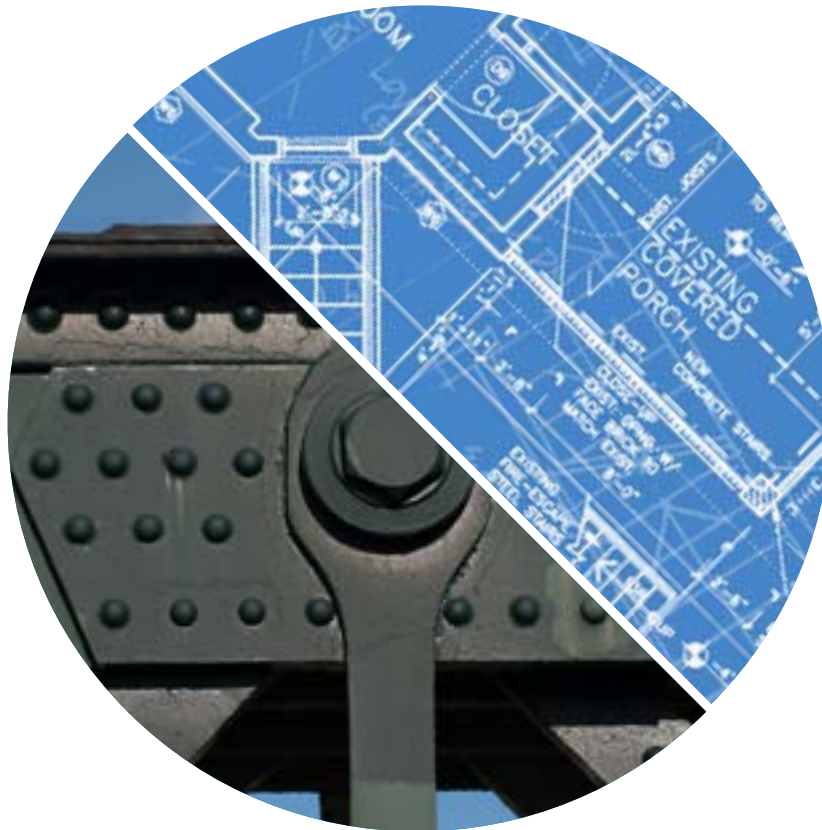
Finally, by using the process approach, you’ll need to show how you establish, implement, maintain, and continually improve the QMS in relation to the standard.

Clause 5: Leadership

This clause is all about the role of “top management” which is the group of people who direct and control your organization at the highest level.

They need to ensure that the QMS and its requirements are integrated into the organization’s processes and the policy and objectives are aligned with the strategic direction of the organization. They also need to make sure that the QMS is made available, communicated, maintained, and understood by all parties.

There’s also a focus on customer satisfaction and top management need to show how this is enhanced. They will also need to show the organization’s internal strengths and weaknesses and how they could have an impact on products or services. They need to understand the key risks associated with each process and the approach taken to manage, reduce or transfer the risk. Top management can assign QMS-relevant responsibilities and authorities but, ultimately, they remain accountable for it.



Clause 6: Planning

This clause focuses on how an organization plans actions to address both risks and opportunities. Consideration of risks needs to be proportionate to the potential impact they may have, and opportunities could include new product launches or geographical expansion for example.

Actions to address risks and opportunities must be monitored, managed, and communicated across the organization.

Another key area of this clause is the need to establish measurable quality objectives.

Finally this clause covers what is referred to as “planning of changes”. This has to be done in a systematic manner. For example organizations should consider who is involved, when changes are to take place, and the potential consequences of change.

Clause 7: Support

This section of ISO 9001 is all about getting the right resources, the right people, and the right infrastructure in place to meet the organizational goals. Organizations should make sure that resources are made available to do this. It could include making training and personnel available, for example.

Organizational knowledge relating to the QMS is also covered in this clause. Personnel must not only be aware of the quality policy, but they must also understand how they contribute to it and what the implications of not conforming are.

This is where the term “documented information” is referred to. Previous versions of ISO 9001 required a quality manual, the standard no longer stipulates this. It does, however, require organizations to determine the level of documented information that’s necessary to control the QMS. There’s also an emphasis on controlling access to documented information which reflects the importance of information security.



Clause 8: Operation

This clause is all about the execution of the plans and processes that enable an organization to meet customer requirements. It acknowledges the increased use of outsourced and subcontracted functions and there is a requirement to establish criteria for monitoring the performance of these parties in addition to keeping records used to establish selection criteria.

This clause also covers “requirements for products and services”. There is a requirement for communicating with potential customers which could be useful when developing new solutions to the market.

Finally, there is a section which covers post-delivery activities, which could include maintenance or repair. Organizations need to consider the risks associated with a product or service, customer requirements, customer feedback, and any statutory requirements.

Clause 9: Performance evaluation

This is all about measuring and evaluating your QMS to ensure that it is effective and it helps you to continually improve. You will need to consider what should be measured, the methods employed, and when data should be analysed and reported on.

Organizations must also actively seek out information on customer perception of their products or services, for example, through satisfaction surveys. Internal audits will need to be carried out, and there is certain “audit criteria” defined to ensure that the results of these audits are reported to relevant management. Finally, management reviews will need to be carried out and “documented information” must be kept as evidence.

Clause 10: Improvement

This clause requires organizations to determine and identify opportunities for continual improvement of the QMS. There is a requirement to actively look out for opportunities to improve processes, products or services, particularly with future customer requirements in mind.

There are some actions that are required that cover the handling of corrective actions. Firstly organizations need to react to the nonconformities and take action. Secondly they need to identify whether similar nonconformities exist or could potentially occur.

Top tips on making ISO 9001 effective for you

Every year we help tens of thousands of clients. Here are their top tips.

Top management commitment is key to making this a success.



“The earlier that organizations talk to senior managers, the better it will go for them so have those discussions early”.

John Scott, Overbury, leading UK fit-out and refurbishment business

Keep staff informed of what’s going on, create a team or assign a champion, as this will increase motivation. This could include a well communicated plan of activities and timescales.



“When we decided to implement the new standard, we assigned an internal champion of the standard inside the organization”.

Ronald Tse, Ribose, Hong Kong cloud service provider

Think about how different departments work together to avoid silos. **Make sure the organization works as a team** for the benefit of customers and the organization.



“It’s helped us mobilize all of our employees and all of our employees now understand the key metrics and the success factors. So it’s helped us out in a business way and in an operational way”. Maxime Clerk, Vortex Conseils, Canadian consultancy business

Review systems, policies, procedures and processes you have in place – you may already do much of what’s in the standard, and make it work for your business.



“Don’t try and change your business to fit the standard. Think about how you do things and how that standard reflects on how you do it, rather than the other way around”.

Paul Brazier, Overbury, leading UK fit-out and refurbishment business

Speak to your customers and suppliers. They may be able to suggest improvements and give feedback on your service.



“It results in a more finely-tuned service to your customer, which is obviously very important to us”. Mark Kennedy, Salus, UK occupational health and return to work services provider

Train your staff to carry out internal audits. This can help with their understanding, but it could also provide valuable feedback on potential problems or opportunities for improvement.



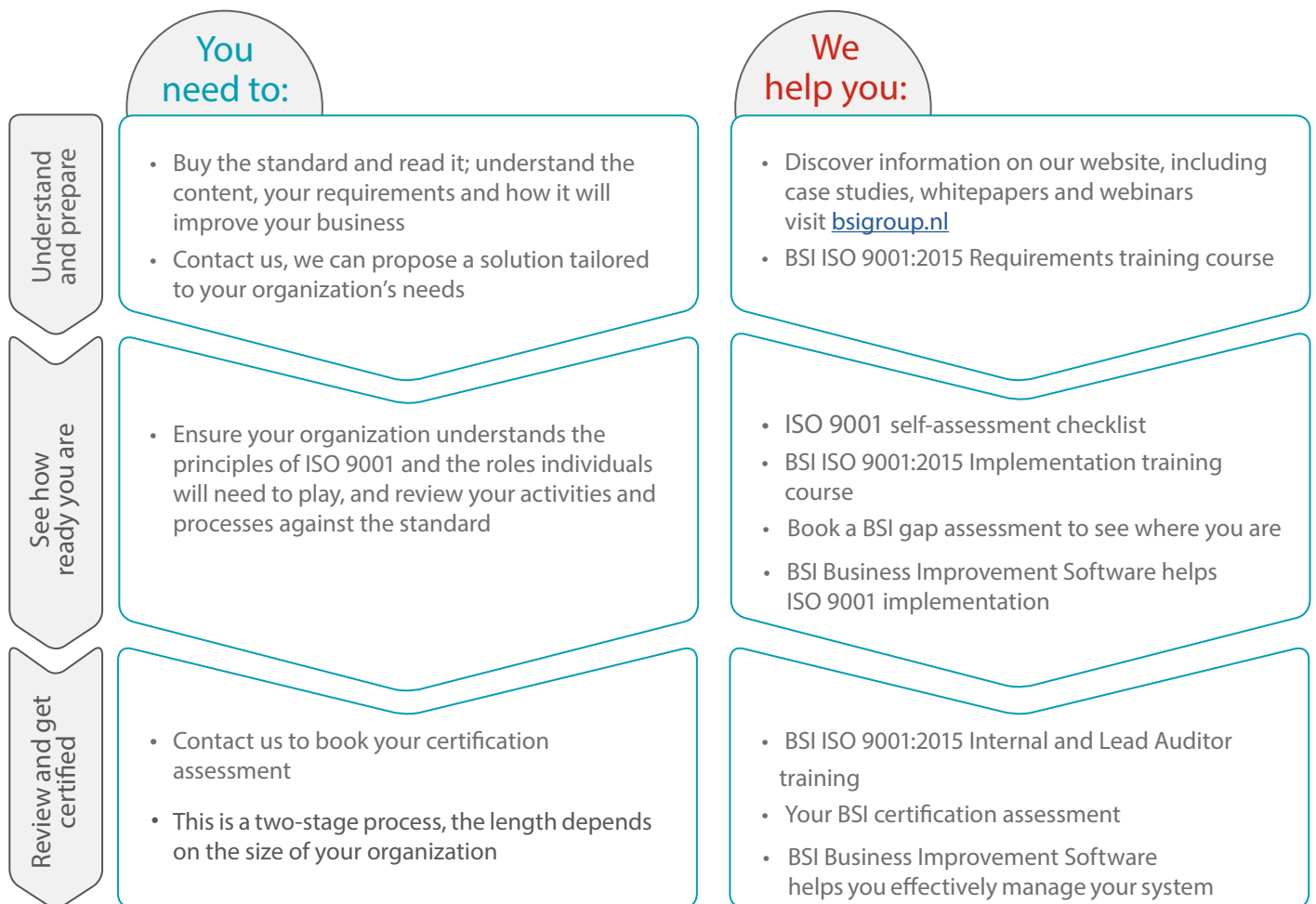
“I have previously attended the internal auditor course and since implemented a QMS for my place of work”. Claire Pressdee-Collins, Ofcom, UK communications regulator

And finally, when you gain certification celebrate your achievement and use the **BSI Assurance Mark** on your literature, website and promotional material.



Your ISO 9001 Journey

Whether you're new to quality management or looking to enhance your current system, we have the right resources and training courses to help you understand and implement ISO 9001. But our support doesn't stop there. We can help make sure your system keeps on delivering the best for your business.



Continually improve and make excellence a habit

Your journey doesn't stop with certification. We can help you to fine-tune your organization so it performs at its best.

- Celebrate and promote your success – download and use the BSI Assurance Mark to show you are certified.
- Your BSI Excellerator report will benchmark the performance of your business and highlight where you can improve.
- Lean Six Sigma training - make your business lean and boost customer satisfaction.
- BSI Business Improvement Software will help you to manage systems and drive performance.
- Your BSI Client Manager will visit you regularly to make sure you remain compliant and support your continual improvement.
- Consider integrating other management system standards to maximize business benefits.

BSI Training Academy

The BSI Training Academy is a world leader in helping clients develop the knowledge and skills they need to embed excellence in their organizations. We offer a range of ISO 9001 training solutions that can be tailored to your needs. Our training courses are developed by experts in their fields who have been directly involved in the development of ISO 9001 so when you train with us you'll benefit from their expertise.

Using the latest research, our accelerated learning approach is proven to fast-track learning and improve knowledge retention. Our experienced tutors can help you get to grips with the matters that concern you and your organization directly, whether delivered in-house or as part of an open course where other delegates can share their experience.

Courses that help you understand ISO 9001 include:

ISO 9001:2015 Senior Management Briefing

- Two-hour face-to-face session
- Understand the purpose of ISO 9001:2015 and the leadership responsibilities outlined in the standard
- Important for top management of organizations implementing to ISO 9001:2015

BSI ISO 9001:2015 Requirements

- One-day classroom-based training course
- Learn about the structure and key requirements of ISO 9001:2015
- Essential for anyone involved in the planning, implementing, maintaining, supervising or auditing of an ISO 9001:2015 QMS

ISO 9001:2015 Implementation

- Two-day classroom-based training course
- Discover how to apply a typical framework for implementing ISO 9001:2015 following the PDCA cycle and using the handy resources contained in the good practice toolkit
- Recommended for anyone involved in the planning, implementing, maintaining, supervising or auditing of an ISO 9001:2015 QMS

ISO 9001:2015 Internal Auditor

- Two-day classroom-based training course
- Learn how to initiate an audit, prepare and conduct audit activities, compile and distribute audit reports and complete follow-up activities
- Ideal for anyone involved in auditing, maintaining or supervising an ISO 9001:2015 QMS

IRCA Certified ISO 9001:2015 Lead Auditor

- Five-day classroom-based training
- Gain the knowledge and skills required to undertake and lead a successful management system audit
- Recommended for anyone involved in auditing, maintaining or supervising an ISO 9001:2015 QMS

ISO 9001:2015 Best Practice Programme

- Understand, implement and audit the requirements of the standard with additional gap assessment
- Recommended for any organization wanting a flexible tailored solution to embed ISO 9001, retain knowledge in-house and add real value

BSI Business Improvement Software

Accelerate implementation time and deliver continual improvements

The decision to implement a new management system standard is a huge opportunity to drive business improvement, but initiating, implementing, and maintaining this can also be a challenge. Ensuring you get the most from your investment is a key driver to your future success. BSI business improvement software provides a solution that can significantly reduce the cost and effort to implement an effective management system such as ISO 9001. It can be configured to the requirements of ISO 9001 and provide your organization with the tools necessary to manage essential elements of ISO 9001 across your organization. The start of your ISO 9001 journey is an ideal time to implement BSI business improvement software to support your QMS.

It can help you to:

- Accelerate implementation time by up to 50%
- Manage your document control effectively
- Provide company-wide visibility on implementation of the standard so you know exactly where you are at any one time
- You can easily and accurately input actions related to audits, incidents/events, risk and performance
- Through its customizable dashboards and reporting tools it gives you early insight into trends that help you make business decisions early on and drive improvement

The savings are the costs you avoid because you could not see what was happening at the facility level.



Why BSI?



BSI has been at the forefront of ISO 9001 since the start. And, it was originally based on BS 5750 which was developed by BSI. Since 1994 we have held the Secretariat of the International Committee developing and evolving ISO 9001 to where it is today. That's why we're best placed to help you understand the standard.

At BSI we create excellence by driving the success of our clients through standards. We help organizations to embed resilience, helping them to grow sustainably, adapt to change, and prosper for the long term. We make excellence a habit.

For over a century our experts have been challenging mediocrity and complacency to help embed excellence into the way people and products work. With 80,000 clients in 182 countries, BSI is an organization whose standards inspire excellence across the globe.



Our products and services

We provide a unique combination of complementary products and services, managed through our three business streams; Knowledge, Assurance and Compliance.

Knowledge

The core of our business centres on the knowledge that we create and impart to our clients. In the standards arena we continue to build our reputation as an expert body, bringing together experts from industry to shape standards at local, regional and international levels. In fact, BSI originally created eight of the world's top 10 management system standards.

Assurance

Independent assessment of the conformity of a process or product to a particular standard ensures that our clients perform to a high level of excellence. We train our clients in world-class implementation and auditing techniques to ensure they maximize the benefits of our standards.

Compliance

To experience real, long-term benefits, our clients need to ensure ongoing compliance to a regulation, market need or standard so that it becomes an embedded habit. We provide consultancy services and differentiated management tools to facilitate this process.



Find out more
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