

ISO 9001:2015 – Efficient Transition to an Effective System

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A significant revision in the ISO 9001 standard provides an excellent occasion for certified organizations to improve their quality management system. By involving senior leaders, process owners, and internal auditors, the organization can concurrently work toward efficiently transitioning toward ISO 9001:2015 compliance.

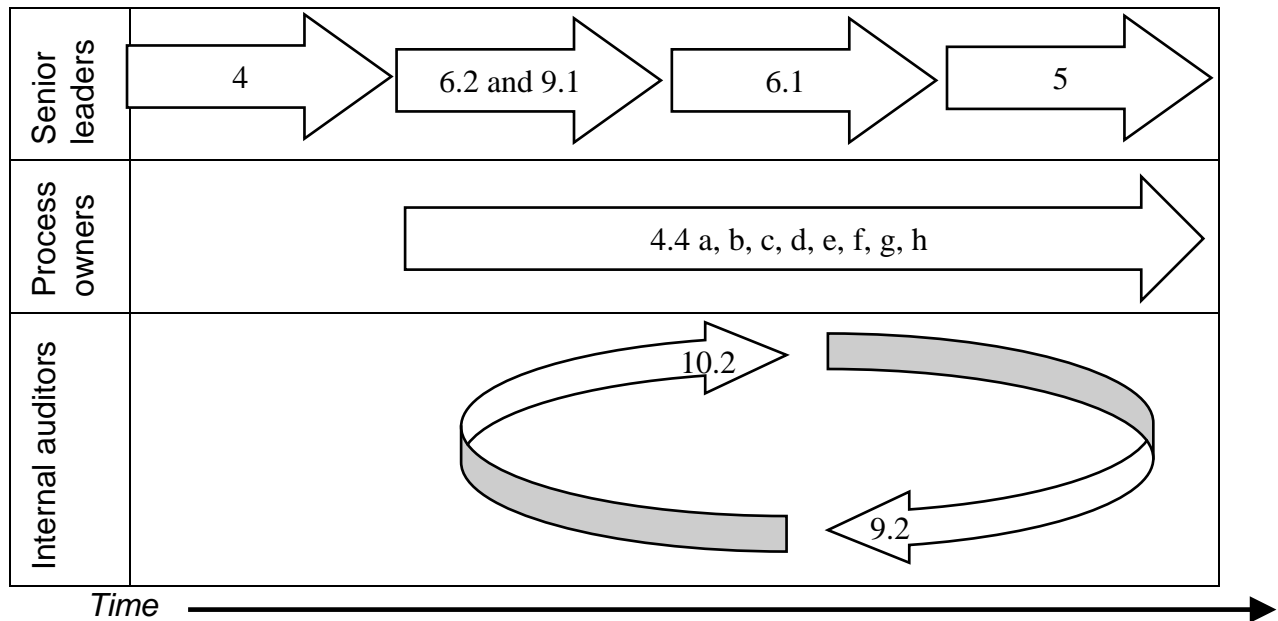


Figure 1. Timeline of activities for senior leaders, process owners, and internal auditors to transition to ISO 9001:2015.

One of the significant revisions to the standard involves the participation of the entirety of senior leadership. The obvious difference is that the position of management representative is no longer required, but the intent behind this change is that the quality management system is pervasive to all aspects of running an organization, not just Quality.

Another significant change is in perspective; an internal focus is no longer adequate. The organization needs to understand the context in which it operates and define its stakeholders. Organizations must also know what information to capture to understand when changes are occurring to its environment or stakeholders' needs.

The premise of this paper (which can be demonstrated by multiple case studies) is that the transition can be performed efficiently when broken into tasks performed by different groups. Senior leadership should address:

- Context of the organization
- Objectives and the performance evaluation of the system,
- Actions to address risks and opportunities, and
- Leadership and commitment

Various process owners can convene the appropriate teams to define process

inputs, outputs, criteria, methods, required resources, related risks and opportunities, and how process are evaluated and improved.

Lastly, through the cycle of internal audits and corrective actions, the internal audit team can identify and assign corrective actions to address the *minor* changes the organization must address.