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# Quality Herald

The voice of excellence



# GLOBAL QUALITY STANDARDS

TRENDS, TRANSITIONS, AND COMPLIANCE

# Table of Contents

<b>Content</b>	<b>Page no.</b>
From Checklists to Competitive Edge: The Evolution of Global Quality Standards	07
The Global Quality Standards Trends, Transitions and Compliance - an HR approach.	11
Global Quality Standards: Trends, Transitions, and Compliance	14
Why Global Quality Standards Matter More Than Ever	17
Quality in Transition: Adapting Standards for a Rapidly Changing World	20
The Global Quality Standards Crossword	27
Glimpses	29

## ABOUT THE JOURNAL

The February 2026 edition of **Quality Herald** focuses on the theme “**Global Quality Standards: Trends, Transitions, and Compliance,**” examining how organizations worldwide are adapting to evolving benchmarks of quality in an increasingly complex and interconnected global economy. As industries face rapid technological shifts, stricter regulatory frameworks, and heightened stakeholder expectations, quality standards are undergoing significant transformation.

This edition explores the latest global trends shaping quality management—from digital quality systems and data-driven compliance to sustainability-led certifications and risk-based auditing models. Through expert insights, industry case studies, and thought-provoking analyses, it highlights how businesses are transitioning from traditional compliance-driven approaches to more integrated, proactive, and value-centric quality frameworks.

By addressing the challenges of harmonizing international standards, managing cross-border compliance, and embedding quality into organizational culture, the February issue offers a comprehensive perspective on the future of quality governance. It underscores the growing role of innovation, transparency, and continuous improvement in ensuring consistency, trust, and resilience across global supply chains.

Ultimately, this edition equips readers with practical insights and strategic foresight to navigate the shifting quality landscape empowering organizations to meet regulatory demands, exceed customer expectations, and build sustainable excellence in a world where quality is no longer optional, but foundational to long-term success.

Title	Quality Herald – The Voice of Excellence
ISSN	
Language	English
Frequency of Publication	Monthly
Starting Year	2023
Format of Publication	Online
Publisher	Quality Growth Services Private Limited (QGS Group)
Publisher Address	H-13, Kirti Nagar, New Delhi – 110015, India
Contact Numbers	+91-11-25431737 / 25918332 / 41425273
Emails	<a href="mailto:qgs@qgspl.com">qgs@qgspl.com</a> / <a href="mailto:info@qgspl.com">info@qgspl.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.qgspl.co.in">www.qgspl.co.in</a>
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Aims	The magazine intends to be leading platform for sharing practical insights, innovative ideas and thought leadership in the field of Quality, Sustainability, Operations and Business Excellence. It seeks to inspire professionals, academicians and organisations to adopt and implement the quality driven approaches that lead to continuous improvement and societal value.
Scope	A. Management System B. Sustainability and ESG practices C. Operational and Business Excellence D. Women empowerment E. Youth, Education and Future of Quality Leadership F. Industry 4.0 and Artificial Intelligence
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Availability	Available online on the publisher's website.
Author Guidelines	<p><b>Submission Format</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Title of the Article</li> <li>• Full Name(s) of Author(s)</li> <li>• Affiliation(s) and Designation(s)</li> <li>• Contact Email(s)</li> <li>• Author Bio (50–100 words)</li> <li>• Declaration of Originality</li> <li>• Main Content (with headings/subheadings)</li> <li>• Conclusion / Key Insights</li> <li>• References</li> <li>• Tables/Figures (if applicable – clearly labeled)</li> </ul> <p><b>Word Count Guidelines</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Feature Articles / Case Studies: 1500–3000 words</li> <li>2. Opinion / Technical Notes: 800–1500 words</li> <li>3. Book Reviews / Interviews / Brief Insights: 500–1000 words</li> <li>4. Longer manuscripts may be considered based on editorial merit.</li> </ol> <p><b>Formatting Instructions</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Font: Calibri or Times New Roman, Size 11 or 12</li> <li>2. Line spacing: 1.15</li> <li>3. Use clear sub-headings and bullet points</li> <li>4. All visuals must be referenced in-text</li> <li>5. No plagiarism and provide appropriate citations</li> </ol>

**Quality Herald – The Voice of Excellence****Vol-2, Issue-02 | February 2026**

*Quality, today, is no longer confined to inspection checklists, certificates on the wall, or periodic audits. It has evolved into a global language that connects organizations, regulators, customers, and societies across borders. As markets become more interconnected and expectations more demanding, global quality standards are undergoing a significant shift, not just in form, but in intent.*

*This edition of Quality Herald focuses on how quality standards are transitioning from being compliance driven to performance oriented, from documentation heavy systems to risk based, data enabled, and value focused frameworks. International standards such as ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 45001, IATF 16949, ISO/IEC 17025, the CQI series of special process standards, and emerging ESG aligned guidelines are no longer static rulebooks. They are living systems that respond to technological disruption, sustainability imperatives, supply chain volatility, and evolving stakeholder expectations.*

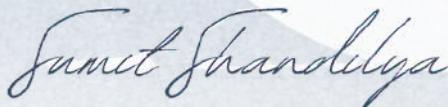
*One of the most visible trends is the integration of risk-based thinking, process approach, and continual improvement as core principles rather than optional best practices. Another important transition is the growing emphasis on special process assurance through CQI standards, which are gaining global acceptance as organizations seek deeper process robustness, traceability, and customer confidence beyond traditional management system compliance.*

*At the same time, organizations are facing a compliance paradox. While standards are becoming more flexible and principle driven, regulatory scrutiny and stakeholder accountability are increasing. This makes leadership commitment, competence building, and system maturity more critical than ever. Quality professionals are now expected to be strategists, problem solvers, and change agents, not just custodians of standards.*

*Through expert articles, case insights, and practical perspectives, this issue aims to help readers understand where global quality standards are heading, how organizations can manage these transitions effectively, and how compliance can be transformed into a competitive advantage rather than a burden.*

*As always, Quality Herald remains committed to being not just a magazine, but a platform for thought leadership, learning, and dialogue in the journey towards excellence.*

*Happy reading, and more importantly, happy improving.*

**Chief Editor****Quality Herald – The Voice of Excellence**

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**Published by**

Quality Growth Services Private Limited (QGS Group)  
H-13, Kirti Nagar, New Delhi – 110015 India

# From Checklists to Competitive Edge: The Evolution of Global Quality Standards

## Article from the Editor's Desk - Surajit Mukhopadhyay



In a world where consumers, regulators, and markets demand more transparency and reliability than ever before, global quality standards have transformed from optional frameworks into strategic imperatives. From manufacturing floors to digital ecosystems, these standards guide organizations toward consistency, safety, sustainability, and trust — all while navigating rapid technological and regulatory change.

### Why Quality Standards Matter Today

Global quality standards - like ISO 9001 for quality management systems or ISO 14001 for environmental management are no longer just checkboxes for compliance. They're signals of credibility in a crowded global marketplace. They help organizations:

- Mitigate risk by embedding systematic checks and balances.
- Enhance customer confidence in product/service consistency.
- Unlock market access, especially where certification is a prerequisite for trade.
- Drive operational excellence through data-driven continuous improvement.

### Trend 1 - From Paper to Digital Assurance

One of the most disruptive shifts across industries is the digitization of quality management:

- Real-Time Monitoring: Sensors and IoT devices now collect quality data continuously — spotting anomalies well before defects escalate.
- Cloud-Based QMS Platforms: Modern quality management systems (QMS) leverage cloud infrastructure for collaboration, version control, and automated workflows across continents.
- AI & Predictive Analytics: Instead of reacting to failures, companies are predicting quality issues by analyzing patterns across massive datasets.

This digital evolution is not just about efficiency — it's about proactive quality governance.

### Trend 2 - Sustainability and ESG Are Integral to Quality

Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) priorities are reshaping how quality is defined. The concept of quality now includes:

- Environmental impact - minimizing waste and emissions.
- Social responsibility - ethical supply chains and fair labor practices.
- Governance transparency - accountability in reporting and performance.

Standards such as ISO 14001 and ISO 45001 (occupational health & safety) are increasingly aligned with investor expectations and regulatory frameworks. Quality professionals now speak the language of sustainability as fluently as they speak compliance.

### Trend 3 - Harmonization Across Borders

Global supply chains demand harmonized quality expectations. Yet different regions still maintain unique compliance landscapes. For example:

- Europe's incoming Green Deal and product compliance laws put lifecycle sustainability at the forefront.
- The U.S. focuses on safety, data integrity, and industry-specific regulations like FDA quality systems.
- Asia's manufacturing hubs blend global standards with local regulatory nuance.

To operate globally, organizations must think in standards ecosystems, not silos. Harmonization isn't just easier; it gives companies strategic leverage.

## Trend 4 - Customer-Centric Quality Innovation

Today's customers want more than defect-free products — they want experiences, personalization, and responsiveness. Quality standards are evolving to reflect this:

- Voice of the Customer (VoC) programs are integrated into quality measurement.
- Experience metrics (not just technical KPIs) influence product development cycles.
- Crowd-sourced feedback and social listening enrich quality insights in near real-time.

Quality innovation now embraces empathy as much as engineering.

## Compliance in a Fast-Changing World

Staying compliant isn't easy in 2026. The pace of change technological, legal, and cultural - demands agility:

### 1. Dynamic Regulatory Environments

Policies evolve rapidly - for data, environment, and product safety. Organizations must:

- Maintain active compliance monitoring.
- Engage in advocacy and standards development.
- Build internal capabilities that anticipate change.

### 2. Digital Traceability

Blockchain and distributed ledgers are no longer futuristic ideas; they are practical tools for traceability in food, pharmaceuticals, and electronics - making audit trails more transparent and secure.

### 3. Cross-Functional Integration

Quality teams now work closely with IT, cybersecurity, sustainability, and product management. Compliance cannot be siloed - it must be woven into the organizational fabric..

## The Human Factor: Skills for the Future

While tools and tech advance, the demand for quality thinkers - professionals who blend analytical rigor with creative problem-solving - is at an all-time high.

Top skills in demand include:

- Systems thinking (seeing the whole, not just parts)
- Data literacy and digital fluency
- Change leadership and cultural transformation
- Cross-disciplinary collaboration

Organizations that invest in people - not just processes - will lead in quality excellence.



## Looking Ahead: Quality as a Competitive Advantage

Ultimately, global quality standards are no longer passive rulebooks. They are competitive levers that help organizations:

- Enter new markets faster
- Build resilient and ethical supply chains
- Create products that delight - not just comply
- Transform compliance from cost to value

As standards continue to evolve alongside technology and societal expectations, the most forward-thinking companies will treat quality as a lens - not a destination.

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## *The Global Quality Standards Trends, Transitions and Compliance - an HR approach.*

**N Jithin Kumar - HR Business Partner, Rrayze business solutions**



Quality in the global business environment no longer been a process, product or an audit. It has become deeply human. The quality standards are also overlapping with people management, leadership behavior, organizational culture, and workforce capability as organizations go international. In HR terms, global quality standards are not systems to be put in place, but behaviors to be inculcated, skills to be nurtured and attitudes to be perpetuated.

In the contemporary world, human resource specialists have become crucial in ensuring that global quality standards can be translated into uniform performance, ethical behaviors as well as conformity in different geographies. With the changing trends and the increasing regulatory demands, HR is on the forefront of quality change.

### **The Human Aspect of global quality standards.**

Global quality assurance standards offer systematic structures in order to bring about uniformity, safety, and dependability in international operation systems. They are, however, effective only as long as people, executing processes, are involved, and their combination results in the teams that restore the same systems as much as they can.

In the HR perspective, quality standards determine the manner in which organizations define roles, develop competencies, performance and organizational culture. Quality is not the duty of one department anymore, it is a corporate value that should be displayed in the recruitment and training, leadership development, and the approaches to engaging employees.

With the growing globalization and globalization of workforces, HR should make sure that the requirements of quality are well understood and exercised at all times, no matter where the workforce is located or the setting of the culture.

### **The Major Trends in International Quality Standards through HR Perspective.**

#### ***Since Process Compliance to People Accountability.***

The move towards performance as opposed to compliance based on checklists is one of the trends in quality management. Employees are also being pressured by organizations to comprehend the essence rather than the surface of quality requirements.

To HR, this change implies coming up with systems that instill sense of ownership and accountability. Quality objectives are also being aligned to job descriptions, performance appraisals and incentive structures. Employees are rated based on output and also according to observing standards, risk awareness and contributions to continued improvement.

In this case, the aspect of quality is transformed into a behavioral expectation that has been integrated into working life as opposed to being a requirement of an audit.

#### ***Centralized Leadership Quality Culture.***

The contemporary quality criteria have put a lot of weight on the commitment of leaders. This increases the role of leadership capability in quality delivery in regard to human resource.

The leaders are supposed to be good examples in their decision-making processes, promoting transparency, and creating opportunities in which the issues can be reported without fear. HR is very important as it incorporates the principles of quality in the leadership development schemes, succession planning and the executive performance reviews.

By instilling quality values as a regular practice by leaders, a culture of compliance and excellence comes up as shared duties and not control issues.

### **Staffing Skill and Lifelong Learning.**

International quality standards put more emphasis on competence, awareness and training. This is in line with the fundamental duty of the HR in talent development.

The employees will have to move in line with the changing standards of regulations, technologies, and risk management practices. The HR functions are going beyond the training sessions to a learning ecosystem that supports the development of skills in the long run.

This comprises of quality role structured onboarding, regular refresher training, role-specific certification, and cross-functional learning. An effective workforce leads to a decrease in compliance risk, as well as making the company more efficient, innovative, and able to boost employee confidence.

### **Employee Engagement and Participation.**

The other key trend is the appreciation of the fact that engaged employees are key to quality outcomes. The new quality standards have focused on the involvement of employees, consultation, and awareness, especially on the activities concerning safety, risk detection, and enhancement programs.

Respectively, the HR perspective of engagement, like feedback, suggestion systems and team-based improvement programs, enhance the quality ownership on the grassroots level. Employees will have more chances to adhere to the procedures, report deviations, and work on solving the problem when they do not feel ignored and feel involved.

The quality-based interaction can also improve trust, morale and retention- major aspects that HR leaders need to consider in the competitive talent markets.

### **How to manage Quality in Global and Remote Workforces.**

Quality management in the global teams and remote working has become more complicated. The HR should see to it that quality standards are always comprehended and implemented in any location, time zone, and cultural setting.

This involves effective communication, standard training systems, and change management systems that are sensitive to culture. HR professionals have become translators of the global quality expectations, which they adapt to the local realities without violating the main principles.

Balancing consistency of the global and flexibility of the local has become a vital HR capacity in multinational organizations.

### **Changes in the HR and its Role in Quality Management.**

The dynamic nature of quality standards has altered the role played by HR as a support activity to quality governance strategic partner.

HR is now participating in quality planning, workforce risk assessment and audit/certification preparedness. Compliance and risk are taken into account when making talent decisions like hiring to essential quality roles, or restructuring teams.

Moreover, HR is at the center of the change management process when shifting towards a new quality system. In trying to adopt new standards, modernizing processes or even digitalizing quality systems, effective communication, training, and employee buy-in are the keys to successful implementation.

### **Conclusion**

HR wise, global quality standards are all about individuals. Systems, processes, and technologies are merely structures but human behavior defines whether or not the quality objectives are indeed met.

The role of HR in developing the leadership, creating competency, enlisting employees, and maintaining quality culture has never been more important because of the trends and compliance pressures. Companies that build quality standards within the people practices will not only satisfy international demands, but also establish work environments characterised by trust, responsibility and constant enhancement.

HR-driven quality cultures will prove to be a game-changer in an economy that is globalized and where reputation and reliability are becoming an issue of paramount importance.



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## Global Quality Standards: Trends, Transitions, and Compliance

**Aditya Parmar - Incoming Management Trainee, Bata**



In a more globalized economy, quality is no longer a localized or not-so-important issue. It has become a global language that predetermines credibility, competitiveness, and sustainability of organizations in different industries and countries. The international quality criteria are important in ensuring that there is a common ground of expectations among producers, the regulator and consumers to ensure that goods and services have similar standards of quality despite their source of origin. With the widening of markets and the advancement of technologies, these norms are experiencing massive changes, guided by the new trends and increased requirements of compliance.

### Learning about Global Quality Standards.

Global quality standards refer to frameworks of structures that are designed to provide uniformity, safety, efficiency, and reliability of processes, products and services across the world. They also act as a source of comparison amongst organizations that are in a different regulatory and cultural setting. Conventionally, the quality standards were more on the accuracy of production and minimization of manufacturing defects. Nevertheless, the current quality criteria go way past the production lines and include governance, environmental responsibility, data security, customer satisfaction, and ethical practices.

The standards contribute to reducing variability in organizations, enhance operational efficiency, and earn trust among the stakeholders. To the consumers, they provide them with safety and value assurance. In the case of businesses, they offer an organized process control, risk management and continuous improvement.

### New Trends of global quality standards.

The change in the principle of quality that has been one of the most memorable trends in the global quality standards is the shift in quality that has been product centered to the quality that is system centered. Organisations are no longer judged based on outputs, but also on how strong their management systems are. This is an indication of an increasing realization that sustainable quality is an outcome of highly crafted processes, good leadership and accountability culture.

The other important trend is the inclusion of technology in the quality management systems. Automation, real-time monitoring, data analytics, and artificial intelligence are some of the digital tools that are changing the measure and maintenance of quality. The technologies allow predictive quality control, early identification of deviations, and quicker corrective measures. Consequently, the quality standards are becoming more open to the digital transformation and urging organizations to become smarter in quality practices.

Green ideas and environmental accountability have also come to the focus of world-quality conversation. The concept of quality is not perceived only in terms of efficiency and performance but is strongly connected to the aspects of environmental influence, efficient utilization of resources, and value in a long-term perspective of the society. Quality is supposed to be exhibited in the form of responsible sourcing by the organization, waste reduction, and energy efficiency.

Another trend is customer-centricity. The current quality criteria pay emphasis to customer satisfaction, feedback, and the consistency of experience. As consumers are more informed and have more options, the organizations are finding the pressure to provide not only compliant products, but excellent experiences. Quality is now gauged more on its ability to gauge and react to changing customer requirements by the organizations.

### Global Quality Landscape Transitions.

The development of the international quality standards shows the greater economic, technological and social shifts. The shift to performance-driven quality rather than compliance-driven quality is one of them. Previously, quality standards were usually seen as a checklist that organizations had to make in order to meet the requirements of regulations. As a strategic instrument, quality standards are now being exploited to produce innovation, competitiveness and operational excellence.

The other significant shift is the rise of comparable quality standards in countries and industries. With the increased complexity of global supply chains, the harmonization of standards has become necessary in order to minimize duplication, confusion, and trade. Such alignment enables organizations to work more effectively even in case of cross-border operations and ensure the same quality expectations.

Quality management is also characterized by a real change to risk-based thinking. Instead of responding to defects or failure once it has happened, organizations are prompted to anticipate the possibility of risks and develop controls that will avert them. This change is indicative of a more mature and progressive thinking about quality, where correction is less important than prevention.

Quality transitions have also been affected by workforce dynamics. As web work, multinational teams, and the diversification of skills are becoming a norm, standards of quality are now focused on competence, training, and knowledge management. It is regarded as important to ensure that the employees are aware of the quality objectives and empower them to maintain them to achieve uniformity in the operations.

### The Increasing Value of Compliance.

Global quality compliance has been made more complicated and more important. There has been a heightening of regulatory scrutiny and failure to comply with it can lead to dire consequences such as fines, loss of reputation, market access and trust loss amongst stakeholders. In some very controlled industries like medical care, motor, food and flight safety, compliance is directly associated with safety and the well-being of the citizens.

Compliance in the present day is not about legal compliance. Organizations are increasingly being expected to act ethically, be transparent and socially responsible by their stakeholders. The quality compliance is thus woven with the corporate governance and the sustainability commitments. The organizations should make sure that compliance is integrated into their culture and not a single-purpose undertaking.

The compliance issue of different regulations in different regions is one of the greatest challenges. MNCs have to balance between globalization and localization. This involves the effective documentation, communication and constant monitoring to ascertain that the quality systems are kept in pace with the changing regulations.

Technology has come out as a very important facilitator of compliance. The digital quality management systems assist the organizations to monitor the compliance status, control audits, and have real-time visibility of the processes. These systems minimize omissions by humans, enhance traceability and make decisions quicker. Due to the increasing compliance demands, the use of technology is bound to increase even more. The cooperation of regulators, organizations, and stakeholders will be very instrumental in future standards development. Quality will no longer be viewed as the role of one of the functions but a collective determination of the value chains.

### Conclusion

The world standards on quality are going through a critical transition phase. Out of the technology, sustainability and increased stakeholder demands, they are being transformed into non-portable compliance instruments into strategic facilitators of excellence. Those organizations that actively seek to embrace such trends, handle the transitions in an effective manner, and integrate compliance into their culture will not only be able to address the expectations of the global community but also have a sustainable competitive advantage. With trust and consistency since the pillars of success in a world, quality standards continue to form the basis of the global advancement.

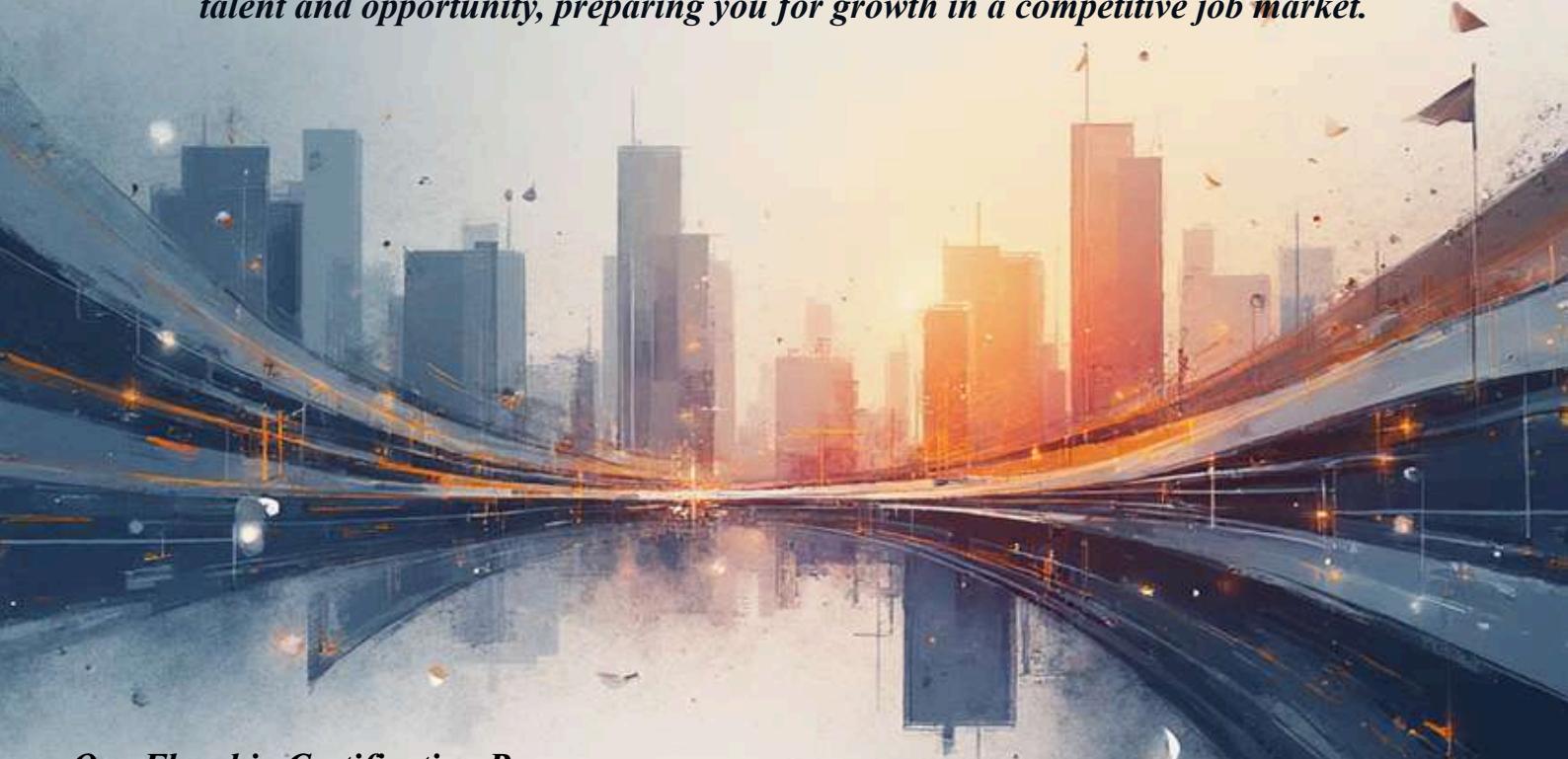


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# Why Global Quality Standards Matter More Than Ever

**Pranjal Tripathi, Incoming Loan portfolio Manager, Axis Bank**



The quality is no longer a distinguishing feature it has become a necessity in the current globalized and highly competitive market. Companies in all fields are being pressured to provide stable, secure, and dependable products and services and at the same time obey the changing regulatory and quality standards. Global quality standards can be used as a common language for aligning organizations, regulators and consumers so that there is trust, efficiency and all round sustainability. Markets are also changing and these standards are also preparing major transitions, which have been influenced by technology and the need to be sustainable as well as the evolving expectations of the stakeholders.

## **The Increased Significance of International Quality Standards.**

The first and original aim of global quality standards was to introduce uniformity and consistency of products and process internationally. Their role has increased way beyond compliance today. They are strategic instruments that help organizations to become more efficient, risk-averse, customer-satisfied, and those that allow organizations to enter foreign markets.

Compliance with the accepted standards has acquired the status of precondition of credibility in the sectors like manufacturing, healthcare, food safety, information security and environmental management. Partners and customers are becoming more demanding on certification as the words of an organization of excellence, transparency and improvement. Standardized quality frameworks also assist in dealing with variability as a supply chain is increasingly becoming global and complex and bring about alignment in geographies.

## **The Major Trends with a Significant Impact on the Global Quality Standards.**

Digital transformation can be considered one of the most serious trends affecting the global quality standards. The use of technologies that include data analytics, automation, artificial intelligence and cloud-based systems is redefining the approach to quality monitoring and management. Predictive analytics and real-time data collection allow organizations to detect deviations in their initial stages and minimize defects and enhance decision-making. As a result, the quality standards are focusing more on data integrity, cybersecurity, and digital traceability.

The other urgent trend is the increasing attention paid to sustainability and ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) aspects. Quality is no longer evaluated based on the performance of the product only but on its impact on the environment, ethical sourcing, employee safety, and social responsibility. Standards are dynamic to encompass lifecycle thinking, carbon footprint reduction, waste management and responsible governance. This change is an indication of increased regulatory stress and consumer and investor awareness.

Along with this, there is the evident trend in risk-based thinking. Contemporary quality models promote the dynamic identification, evaluation and the mitigation of risk through proactive approaches by an organization instead of only reactive controls. This strategy will augment the resilience, particularly in the context of supply chain disruptions, geopolitical uncertainties and regulations that are changing at a very fast pace.

## **Change of Quality Management Dynamics.**

The global quality standards have been shifting towards more flexible and performance-based frameworks as opposed to the well-structured and compliance-based frameworks. The previous methods were mostly based on documentation and regular audits. Although documentation is still relevant, the focus has been shifted to process effectiveness, measurable results, and continuous improvement.

Another transition that is worth mentioning is the implementation of integrated management systems. Organizations are increasingly integrating quality management systems with environmental management systems, occupational health and safety management systems and information security management systems into one cohesive system. This integration eliminates duplication, enhances coordination and facilitates the holistic perspective of the organizational performance.

Moreover, the concept of the human aspect of quality management is increasingly being felt. It has now recognized leadership commitment, employee competence and organizational culture as critical enablers of quality. Standards help organisations to invest in training, accountability and create a culture in which quality is a responsibility of everyone and not the prerogative of a committed department.

### **Compliance: Obligation to Strategic Advantage.**

Adherence to international standards of quality is usually viewed as a regulatory measure. Nevertheless, progressive organizations perceive compliance as a competitive edge. Good compliance will minimise operational risk, avoid expensive recalls or collapses and create long term confidence with stakeholders.

Regulations are increasingly tough and dynamic in various parts of the world. Companies should not only stay afloat with the current requirements, but they should also be flexible to meet new regulations and changes in standards. This will demand good governance processes, regular monitoring and internal audit processes.

Technology is critical towards enhancing compliance. They also decrease the number of manual errors and enhance the preparation towards the external audit and regulatory inspection.

### **Global Quality Compliance Problems.**

Although it has some advantages, compliance with global quality standards has a number of challenges. Regulatory diversity in different nations is one of the biggest challenges. Multinational organizations have to encounter different legal standards, cultural norms, and implementation of these standards and rules, making standardization efforts more challenging.

The implementation cost and resource intensity is another challenge especially to small and medium-sized enterprises. Investment in training, technology and process redesign can seem to be cumbersome in the short run. Nevertheless, those organizations that are strategic about quality tend to achieve long-term benefits in terms of efficiency and less risk-taking.

Another usual obstacle is the resistance to change. A change of standards or updated structures needs mind-shifts, inter-departmental cooperation and effective leadership.

### **The Way Forward**

With the ever-changing global markets, the standards of quality will be even more instrumental in determining the success of the organizations. The future of world quality is in adjustable and technology-enhanced and sustainability-oriented frameworks balancing compliance with innovation.

The companies that incorporate quality as a part of their strategic vision, use digital tools, and create a culture of constant improvement will be more placed to overcome the uncertainty and competition. Instead of taking standards as checklists that remain unchanged, winning organizations will consider standards as dynamic systems that adjust according to the needs of the business and the expectations in the global context.

### **Conclusion**

The world quality standards are at the crossroads of change. They are also shifting to excellence providers of strategic enablers rather than the conventional compliance systems, owing to changes in the regulatory environment, sustainability issues and technological innovation. To organizations across the globe, adoption of these trends and transitions is not only about complying with needs, but rather developing resilient and trustworthy as well as future-proofed companies. A time, when the quality is the credibility, the global standards are still the pillars of sustainable growth and the trust of the stakeholders.



**Quality Growth Services Pvt. Ltd.**  
**Your partners in excellence**

# **QGS Sustainability Programs for a Greener Future**

*QGS is committed to advancing sustainability by helping businesses achieve carbon neutrality, net-zero emissions, and resilience against climate risks. Their expertise spans ESG, circular business models, and sustainability communication, ensuring responsible growth.*

- Net Zero Emissions
- Decarbonization
- Carbon Neutrality
- Strategy for mitigation & Adaptability
- Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR)
- Materiality

**Innovative  
solutions for  
sustainable living  
today**

*Together, we can create a more sustainable world for future generations to enjoy.*

# *Quality in Transition: Adapting Standards for a Rapidly Changing World*

*Singam Mohit Reddy - Analyst, Capgemini*



With the world becoming increasingly globalized in terms of supply chains, a growing and demanding consumer and regulatory environment, quality is not a cost center anymore and it is a box to be ticked but a strategic differentiator. Global quality standards (ISO family, industry-specific standards such as IATF 16949 or ISO 13485, and area-specific regulations such as EU Medical Device Regulation) have moved on to more risk-based, systems-focused models that require ongoing improvement, traceability and achievable results. This paper is a review of the key trends transforming the quality standards, the changes organizations are going through, and compliance best practices that work in real life - topped by two real-life case studies demonstrating what may go awry or what may go awry.

## **Major trends shaping global quality standards**

### **1. Risk-based and outcome-focused approaches**

The current standards focus on the risk comprehension and control in processes and supply chains instead of merely recording procedures. The transition of ISO 9001:2015 to risk-based thinking is representative: organizations have to define, analyze and eliminate risks to deliver the desired product and service results.

### **2. Digitalization and data-driven quality**

IoT sensors, cloud platforms, predictive analytics, and digital twins Industry 4.0 tools can be used to monitor the quality in real time, analyze root causes, and predictive maintenance. Digital evidence (secure logs, tamper-evident records) are progressively becoming recognized by standards bodies as compliance and audit trails.

### **3. Supply-chain transparency and supplier assurance**

Global sourcing implies that the quality risk shifts out to the suppliers. Certification is no longer considered adequate, and organizations are now requiring any performance dashboards, digital certificates, and contractual terms on corrective action, in combination with an on-site or off-site audit.

### **4. Sustainability and ESG integration**

Quality expectations are being associated with environmental and social governance factors. Quality systems are becoming increasingly accompanied by ISO standards (e.g., ISO 14001 in the environment field, ISO 45001 in the field of occupational health), and stakeholders are seeking to have evidence of products that are sustainable, ethically manufactured and safe.

### **5. Regulatory convergence and stricter sector rules**

Medical devices, automotive, and aerospace are some of the sectors that are regularly updated on the regulatory front (e.g., EU MDR, the rise in the intensity of FDA oversight, and the development of automotive cybersecurity regulations). Companies need to map and align similar requirements in different markets.

### **6. Remote and continuous auditing**

Remote audits were increased by the pandemic. Although face-to-face inspections are still essential, remote evaluations approved by the regulator, constant tracking with the help of data streams, and portals to third parties have become standard.

## Compliance in practice effective strategies

- Implement risk-based quality management system (QMS): Map processes and suppliers, measure risks, and rank the controls in which failure would aid the most.
- Remote digital proof-of-quality: Unemployed secure data capture (timestamped and auditable), SPC (statistical process control) and dashboards to help deliver twenty-four-hour evidence to auditors and regulators.
- Enhance supply chain governance: Go beyond certificates — implement scorecard performance, increased-risk audits (distant and onsite) and demand corrective action plans including KPIs.
- Cross-functional alignment: Integrate quality into product development, procurement and operations. Ensure compliance is not an isolated QA task but also a business goal.
- Regulatory scanning and change management practice: Develop a small regulatory watch-team or function that monitors standards changes and implements them in the QMS with timelines and ownership.

## Challenges and trade-offs

- Cost vs. value: The upgrade of systems and the digitization of evidence may not be cheap, particularly in the case of SMEs. When investing, leaders have to compute the overall cost of non-compliance (recalls, fines, lost reputation).
- Data integrity and privacy: Digital evidence should be protected and privacy-conforming (e.g. personal data in certain records).
- Vendor fragmentation: It takes resources and long-term supplier development program to organize the large numbers of small suppliers to achieve high standards.

## Case study 1 — Toyota (unintended acceleration recalls): lessons on systems and supply-chain oversight

In the late 2000s-early 2010s, Toyota experienced massive recalls that were associated with the problem of unintended acceleration and floor-mat malfunction. The crisis has demonstrated that even the companies that have a reputation of excellence might have collapsed because of systemic failure, where detection of the problem and cross-functional escalation are failed. Lessons learned:

- (a) strong root-cause identification and disclosure is necessary;
- (b) issues with supplier components and design choices can have a ripple effect into the global reputation risk;
- (c) quick and effective communication with regulators and the customers can be beneficial in the crisis response.

## Case study 2 — Boeing 737 MAX: regulatory compliance and cultural implications

The 737 MAX disasters (Lion Air 2018, Ethiopian Airlines 2019) and the resulting grounding revealed serious flaws in the validation of the design, oversight by the regulatory bodies, and corporate culture of an aerospace giant. The inquiries revealed system integration testing gaps, assumptions regarding pilot interaction and intricate certification procedures that had high dependence on the delegated authority. The consequences required the industrial scrutiny: regulators became more vigilant in certification, OEMs reconsidered safety-critical engineering processes and quality assurance in the supply chain became a primary board level issue. The case highlights that compliance is not only technical, but also cultural and organizational.

## Conclusion quality as a competitive mandate

The standards of quality have come to the level of integrated and risk-based models that require information, inter-functional procedures, and rapidity to adapt to the regulatory transformation. Organizations that make investments in digital evidence, effective supplier governance and a culture of constant improvement will not just comply but will leverage quality as a competitive edge. The experience of high-profile failures is bleak: it is openness, system thinking, and quick learning that puts a difference between companies that pass reputational shocks and those that do not. Those standards that view quality as a system of life and not a wall plaque will be the champions as continuously standards develop.

# Important Dates in February 2026

## 13 February – World Radio Day

Commemorates the power of radio as a trusted medium for information, education, and community engagement across diverse societies.



## 19 February – Shivaji Jayanti

Marks the birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, honoring his leadership, governance, and contribution to Indian history.

## 20 February – World Day of Social Justice

Emphasizes the importance of equality, fair opportunities, human rights, and inclusive development across societies.



## 27 February – World NGO Day

Celebrates the work of non-governmental organizations in driving social change, humanitarian efforts, and sustainable development.

## 28 February – National Science Day (India)

Commemorates Sir C. V. Raman's discovery of the Raman Effect, highlighting the role of science and innovation in national progress.



# NEWS

## Future of ISO Standards in an Advancing Digital Environment

As digital technologies and business models continue to evolve, maintaining alignment with ISO standards is becoming increasingly vital for organizations worldwide. In a rapidly changing environment, ISO standards remain central to ensuring quality, security, and operational integrity across sectors.

The article outlines several key trends and predictions for 2025:

### The Future of ISO Standards in an Advancing Digital Environment: Trends and Predictions for 2025

**Sustainability Integration:** ISO is expected to strengthen sustainability within its standards, especially through updates to frameworks such as ISO 14001, encouraging organizations to deepen their commitment to environmental responsibility, energy efficiency, waste reduction, and sustainable sourcing.

**Enhanced Cybersecurity Frameworks:** With digital threats rising, ISO standards related to information security—particularly ISO/IEC 27001—are projected to evolve to better address emerging challenges posed by advanced technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

**AI Governance and Ethical Standards:** As AI adoption grows across industries, ISO is focusing on developing ethical and governance frameworks that promote responsible, transparent, and fair AI deployment. This shift aims to help organizations manage ethical risks while building trust with stakeholders.

**Compliance and Licensing Changes:** A significant compliance development highlighted is the introduction of ISO 37001:2025, which mandates that certification bodies verify organizations hold valid licenses for implemented standards. This requirement may extend to core standards such as ISO 9001, ISO 14001, and ISO 27001 by 2026, adding a new layer of audit scrutiny.

**Growth of ISO Standards:** The total number of ISO standards continues to expand steadily, with projections suggesting an increase from about 25,703 at the end of 2024 to over 26,231 in 2025 and further beyond. This growth reflects the broadening scope of standardization in areas like sustainability, digital trust, and supply chain resilience.

**ISO Strategy 2030:** ISO's long-term strategic vision emphasizes enhancing the relevance, inclusivity, and impact of standards worldwide. The strategy prioritizes digital transformation, sustainability, and global collaboration, aligning future standards with wider societal and economic goals.

The article concludes that organizations that proactively adapt to these trends not only ensure compliance but can also gain competitive advantage by embedding forward-looking practices in quality, security, and sustainability.



2 February

# World Wetlands Day

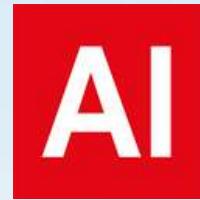
Protecting and restoring wetlands  
for a sustainable future.



# NEWS

## 5 Key Trade Compliance Trends

As global commerce becomes more complex, trade compliance is emerging as a strategic priority for organisations in 2025. According to experts, businesses face a rapidly evolving regulatory landscape influenced by geopolitical tensions, sustainability mandates, technology adoption, shifting trade agreements, and supply chain vulnerability. Staying ahead of these trends is critical for ensuring smooth international operations and mitigating risk.



**acquisition  
international**

*the voice of modern business - est. 2010*

### 1. Expanding Global Sanctions and Export Controls

Sanctions and export controls continue to proliferate as governments use them in foreign policy. Companies must equip compliance teams with tools like denied party screening and export licence management to adapt to frequent updates in sanctioned entity lists and region-specific controls.

### 2. ESG and Ethical Trade Practices

Environmental, Social, and Governance standards are now integral to trade compliance. New regulations require accountability for carbon emissions, ethical sourcing, and labour practices, including enforcement of laws like the Uyghur Forced Labour Prevention Act and the EU's Deforestation-Free Regulation. Aligning trade compliance with ESG goals is becoming essential.

### 3. AI and Advanced Technologies in Compliance

Artificial Intelligence and automation are transforming compliance work. AI-driven systems enhance productivity by automating tasks such as denied party screening, real-time regulatory updates, and workflow management. This reduces manual errors and helps teams keep pace with evolving global rules.

### 4. Trade Agreements and Tariff Changes

Fluctuating trade agreements and tariff regimes require organisations to closely monitor origin compliance, duties, and duties structures to mitigate financial risk. Recent tariff policies, particularly in the U.S., underline the need for robust compliance planning and supply chain transparency.

### 5. Building Resilient Supply Chains

Supply chain resilience remains a top priority amid geopolitical instability and regulatory complexity. Companies are advised to diversify supplier networks, assess regional risks, and align sourcing strategies with compliance requirements to maintain continuity and avoid disruptions.

#### Conclusion:

In 2025, trade compliance is no longer just a legal obligation but a strategic differentiator. Organisations that anticipate regulatory shifts, invest in advanced technologies, and integrate ethical and sustainability criteria into compliance frameworks will be better positioned to navigate challenges and capture opportunities in global markets.

# TOGETHER, WE CAN DEFEAT CANCER



## 4 FEBRUARY 2026



EARLY DETECTION  
SAVES LIVES



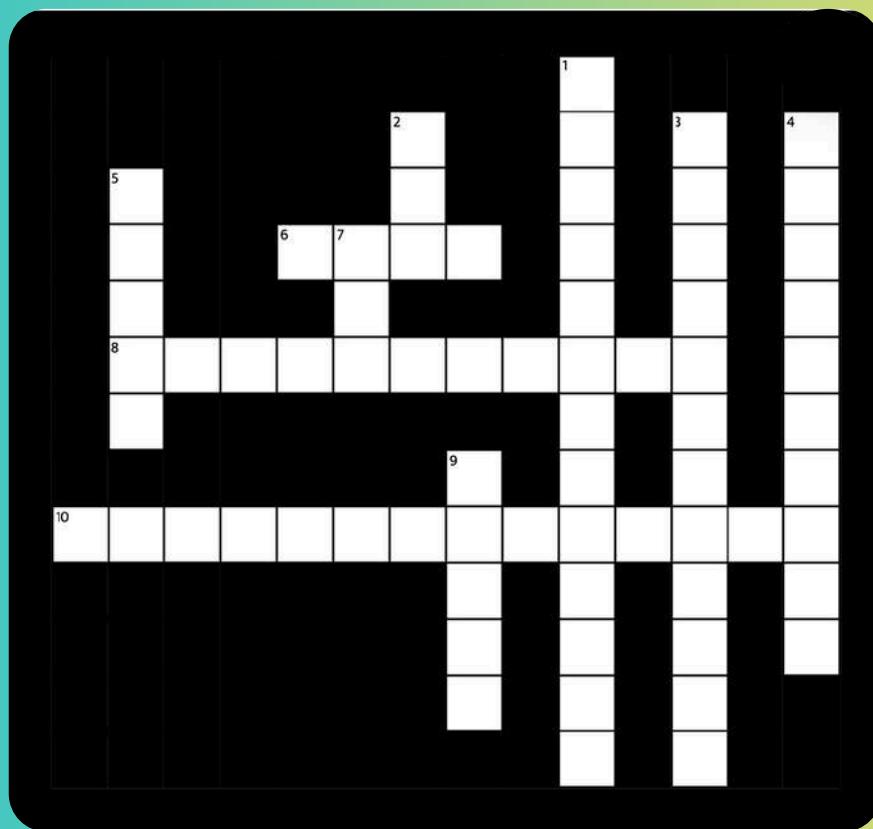
PREVENTION & CARE  
FOR ALL



SUPPORTING  
SURVIVORS & FAMILIES

RAISE AWARENESS • INSPIRE ACTION • SAVE LIVES

# THE GLOBAL QUALITY STANDARDS CROSSWORD



## ACROSS

6. Conformance to laws, regulations, and quality requirements.  
 8. Emerging direction influencing the future of quality management.  
 10. Managing uncertainty while maintaining quality performance.

## DOWN

1. International body responsible for developing global quality standards.  
 2. Continuous effort to enhance processes, products, and systems.  
 3. Adoption of new technologies reshaping quality management practices.  
 4. Documented evidence that processes meet required standards.  
 5. Systematic review to ensure adherence to standards.  
 7. Ability of organizations to adjust to evolving standards and markets.  
 9. Structured framework used to manage quality across operations.

*Answers of the Previous edition*

**Across:** 1. *Resilience*, 3. *Ceo* 7. *Entrepreneurship* 8. *Strategy* 9. *Influence* 10. *Vision*  
**Down:** 2. *Empowerment*, 4. *Leadership*, 5. *Governance*, 6. *Innovation*



CONTACT US

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 +91-11-25431737



Our Website  
<https://qgspl.co.in/>

# QUALITY CONTROL (LED) HUMOR

## When Standards Get Too Serious

### 1. THE ISO CERTIFICATION RUSH

Client: "How fast can we get ISO certified?"

Consultant: "Depends... how fast can you change your culture?"

Client: "Culture? I meant paperwork."



### 2. THE COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST TRAP

Auditor: "Is this process documented?"

Team: "Yes."

Auditor: "Is it followed?"

Team: "...That's a separate standard."

### 3. THE GLOBAL STANDARD CONFUSION

Manager: "We follow international quality standards."

Employee: "Which one?"

Manager: "All of them. Selectively."



### 4. THE CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT LOOP

Standard: "Continuous improvement is mandatory."

Company: "We keep improving the explanation."

Standard: "That's... not what we meant."

### 5. THE AUDIT DAY TRANSFORMATION

Normal Day: Papers everywhere, chaos,

Audit Day: Labels and files perfectly organized.

Auditor: "Is it always like this?"

Everyone: "Of course."



# GLIMPSES



## Certification Workshop on Certified Executive of Project Management

A certification workshop on Certified Executive of Project Management (CEPM) was conducted at the world's largest two-wheeler manufacturer to strengthen strategic project execution and leadership capability. The program focused on project governance, risk management, and performance alignment, enabling senior leaders to deliver complex projects efficiently and in line with organizational objectives.

## Quality Audit for Metro Rail Work

A comprehensive Quality Audit was carried out for a Metro Rail project to assess compliance with established quality standards and execution practices. The audit evaluated processes, documentation, and safety systems, identifying improvement areas to enhance reliability, safety, and long-term project sustainability.



## Workshop on Certified Associate of Lean Management

An exhaustive workshop on Certified Associate of Lean Management (CALM) was conducted for HODs and leaders of a leading auto-component manufacturer. The session focused on lean principles, waste reduction, and continuous improvement, enabling leaders to drive operational efficiency and value creation across functions.

## Workshop on Process Failure Mode and Effect Analysis

A detailed workshop on Process Failure Mode and Effect Analysis (PFMEA) was conducted at a global tyre manufacturing organization to strengthen risk identification and prevention practices. The program enabled participants to proactively analyze process failures, improve process robustness, and enhance overall product quality.



12 February

# National Productivity Day

Enhance efficiency, foster innovation, drive growth.





SCAN ME

# Upcoming Online Training Programs

## BBS Training

*Date*  
 **February 20-21, 2026**

*Time : 10 AM to 5 PM*

## ISO 45001:2018 Lead Auditor

*Date*  
 **February 24-28, 2026**

*Time : 10 AM to 5 PM*

## Six Sigma Black Belt

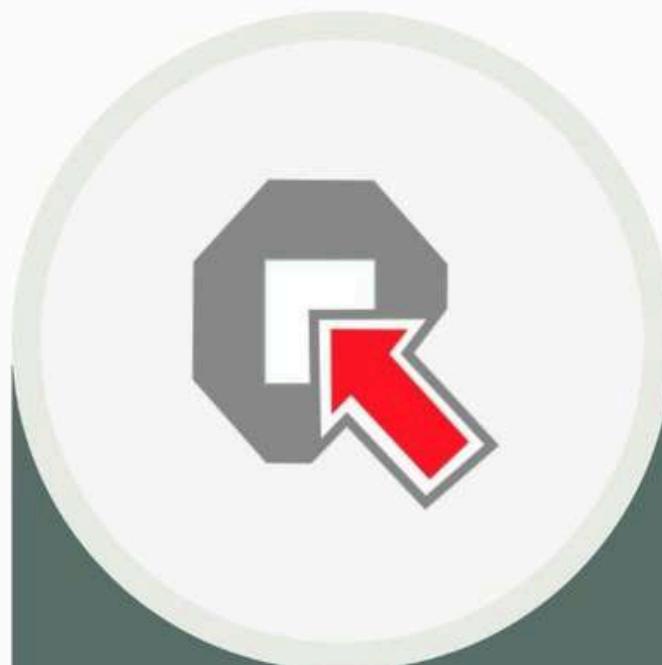
*Date (Week Ender)*  
 **February 27, 2026**

*Time : 10 AM to 5 PM*

## ESG Training

*Date*  
 **March 20-21, 2026**

*Time : 10 AM to 5 PM*



For more info:

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# Quality Growth Services Pvt. Ltd.

## Your partners in excellence

*“Global quality standards are no longer checklists; they are living commitments to trust, consistency, and accountability.”*



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