



JOB DESCRIPTION

ESS Executive - ISO 9001:2026 Consultant

Engagement Model: Project-Based | Contract-Based | Advisory | Training Assignments | Transition & Certification Readiness

Location: Global | USA | Vietnam | Hybrid & Remote Opportunities

About the Role

ESS Executive is seeking experienced ISO 9001:2026 Consultants to help organizations establish, transition, strengthen, and continually improve quality management systems (QMS) aligned with the sixth edition of ISO 9001. The role combines technical standards knowledge with practical business consulting, process improvement, leadership engagement, training, and implementation support.

Consultants may support organizations transitioning from ISO 9001:2015 to ISO 9001:2026, implementing a QMS for the first time, integrating quality management with other management systems, or improving an existing QMS so it better supports strategy, customer requirements, operational performance, and continual improvement.

This is a consulting and implementation role. Consultants may prepare organizations for certification or transition audits, but certification decisions and accredited certificates must remain the responsibility of an independent certification body.

Areas of Expertise

We welcome consultants with strong capability in one or more of the following areas:

ISO 9001:2026 Transition & Gap Assessment

- Assess existing QMS arrangements against ISO 9001:2026 requirements and identify transition priorities.
- Conduct structured gap assessments for organizations currently certified or aligned to ISO 9001:2015.
- Develop practical transition roadmaps, implementation plans, governance structures, and milestone tracking.
- Help organizations interpret revised requirements without turning the QMS into a documentation-only exercise.

QMS Design, Implementation & Integration

- Design or redesign quality management systems appropriate to the organization's size, industry, risk profile, and operating model.
- Define QMS scope, process interactions, responsibilities, controls, documented information, and governance mechanisms.
- Integrate ISO 9001 with business processes and, where relevant, other ISO management system standards.
- Support multi-site, regional, or global QMS standardization while respecting local operational needs.

Process Management & Operational Improvement

- Apply the process approach to map, analyze, control, and improve end-to-end business processes.
- Define process owners, inputs, outputs, controls, interfaces, risks, measures, and improvement actions.
- Improve process effectiveness, consistency, customer outcomes, and operational discipline.



- Connect QMS requirements with Lean, Six Sigma, operational excellence, and continual improvement practices when appropriate.

Risk, Opportunity, Resilience & Change

- Help organizations distinguish and address risks and opportunities in planning and decision-making.
- Facilitate risk and opportunity assessments linked to strategic objectives, processes, customers, suppliers, and change initiatives.
- Support QMS considerations related to organizational resilience, external change, complex supply chains, and evolving business conditions.
- Ensure changes to processes and the QMS are planned, implemented, reviewed, and controlled effectively.

Leadership, Quality Culture & People

- Coach senior leaders on QMS leadership, accountability, customer focus, and integration with business priorities.
- Support stronger quality culture through leadership behavior, communication, awareness, competence, and employee engagement.
- Help organizations address awareness of ethical behavior and quality responsibilities in ways relevant to their context.
- Facilitate management reviews that focus on decisions, performance, risks, opportunities, resources, and improvement.

Performance Evaluation & Continual Improvement

- Design meaningful quality objectives, KPIs, process measures, dashboards, and review mechanisms.
- Improve approaches to customer feedback, complaints, nonconformity, corrective action, root-cause analysis, and lessons learned.
- Analyze QMS performance data and convert findings into prioritized improvement actions.
- Build continual improvement routines that are sustainable beyond the consulting engagement.

Internal Audit & Certification Readiness

- Design risk-based internal audit programs and conduct internal or readiness audits as appropriate.
- Train internal auditors and process owners to evaluate both conformity and effectiveness.
- Support closure of audit findings, nonconformities, and systemic corrective actions.
- Prepare organizations for certification, surveillance, recertification, or transition audits without representing the certification body.

Training & Change Enablement

- Deliver executive briefings, awareness sessions, process-owner workshops, internal auditor training, and implementation coaching.
- Translate standard requirements into practical language for leadership, managers, and employees.
- Develop implementation toolkits, templates, checklists, guidance materials, and workshop outputs tailored to the client.
- Enable internal teams to maintain and improve the QMS independently after project completion.

Ideal Candidate Profile

Quality & Consulting Experience

- Typically 7+ years of progressive experience in quality management, QMS, process improvement, operations, compliance, auditing, or related disciplines.



- Demonstrated hands-on experience implementing, maintaining, auditing, improving, or consulting on ISO 9001-based management systems.
- Practical experience with ISO 9001:2015 and up-to-date working knowledge of ISO 9001:2026 and its transition implications.
- Proven ability to convert standards requirements into practical processes, controls, behaviors, and management routines.
- Experience working directly with leadership teams, process owners, internal auditors, and cross-functional stakeholders.

Technical Competencies

- ISO 9001:2026 requirements and implementation principles
- QMS gap assessment and transition planning
- Process mapping and process performance management
- Risk and opportunity management
- Quality objectives, KPIs, and performance evaluation
- Internal auditing and audit-program management
- Nonconformity, corrective action, and root-cause analysis
- Management review and leadership engagement
- Documented information and QMS governance
- Continual improvement and change management

Consulting & Leadership Capabilities

- Strong facilitation, interviewing, analytical, and problem-solving skills.
- Ability to influence senior leaders without relying on formal authority.
- Clear executive communication and ability to explain technical requirements in simple business language.
- Ability to challenge ineffective practices constructively while maintaining client trust.
- Project management discipline, stakeholder management, and ability to work across functions and levels.
- High professional integrity, confidentiality, independence of judgment, and respect for audit and certification impartiality.

Industry & Global Perspective

- Experience across one or more sectors such as manufacturing, technology, logistics, professional services, construction, retail, healthcare services, financial services, or other regulated or customer-driven environments.
- Experience with multi-site, regional, cross-border, or multinational organizations is an advantage.
- Ability to adapt implementation approaches to different cultures, organizational maturity levels, and operating models.

Educational Background & Professional Credentials

- Bachelor's degree or higher in Quality Management, Engineering, Industrial Engineering, Operations Management, Business Administration, Supply Chain, or a related discipline.
- ISO 9001 Lead Auditor, Internal Auditor, Lead Implementer, or equivalent recognized professional training is preferred.
- Quality credentials such as ASQ CQA, CQE, CMQ/OE, Lean Six Sigma, or comparable certifications are advantageous where relevant.
- Formal training in ISO 19011 auditing guidance, process improvement, project management, or change management is beneficial.



Key Consulting Responsibilities

- Lead discovery sessions to understand organizational context, strategic priorities, customer and stakeholder requirements, QMS maturity, and certification objectives.
- Create project plans, gap-analysis reports, transition roadmaps, action registers, governance plans, and implementation schedules.
- Facilitate process-design and QMS workshops with leadership and cross-functional teams.
- Review and improve policies, procedures, process controls, records, templates, and other documented information where necessary.
- Coach process owners on ownership, evidence, measurement, risk thinking, control effectiveness, and improvement.
- Conduct internal audits, readiness assessments, mock audits, and corrective-action follow-up within the agreed engagement scope.
- Provide management-review support and help leadership evaluate QMS suitability, adequacy, effectiveness, and improvement priorities.
- Prepare client teams for interactions with independent certification bodies while avoiding conflicts of interest or claims of guaranteed certification.
- Provide clear progress reporting, issue escalation, decision support, and knowledge transfer throughout the engagement.

Typical Engagements Available Through ESS Executive

ISO 9001:2026 Transition Projects

- ISO 9001:2015 to ISO 9001:2026 gap assessment
- Transition roadmap and implementation support
- Leadership and employee transition awareness
- Internal audit and transition-readiness review

New QMS Implementation

- Greenfield ISO 9001:2026 QMS implementation
- QMS redesign for growing or transforming organizations
- Multi-site QMS harmonization and governance
- Certification-readiness programs

QMS Improvement & Advisory

- QMS effectiveness reviews and simplification
- Process and KPI redesign
- Corrective-action and root-cause improvement
- Quality culture and leadership advisory
- Supplier quality and quality-risk improvement
- Integrated management system advisory

Training & Capability Building

- ISO 9001:2026 executive awareness
- Process owner training
- Internal auditor development
- Root-cause and corrective-action workshops



- Quality objectives, KPI, and management-review workshops

Why Join ESS Executive as an ISO 9001:2026 Consultant?

High-Impact Consulting Opportunities

Support organizations that are implementing, transitioning, simplifying, or strengthening their quality management systems during a major standards transition period.

Strategic Client Exposure

Work with executives, quality leaders, operations teams, process owners, and transformation stakeholders across industries and organizational sizes.

Flexible Engagement Models

Participate in project-based, contract-based, advisory, training, hybrid, remote, and on-site assignments depending on client needs and consultant availability.

Professional Community

Connect with other quality, operational excellence, transformation, and executive professionals through ESS Executive opportunities and networks.

Long-Term Advisory Pathways

Remain connected to future quality-management, operational excellence, transformation, audit-readiness, training, and executive advisory engagements.

Standards Currency & Transition Note

ISO 9001:2026 was published on 16 September 2026 and replaces ISO 9001:2015 as the current edition. Organizations already certified to ISO 9001:2015 have a transition period to move to the 2026 edition, with the current published transition guidance setting 30 September 2029 as the completion deadline. Engagements should always use the current official standard and applicable guidance in force at the time of delivery.

Professional & Certification Integrity

ESS Executive consulting assignments are advisory, implementation, training, and readiness-support engagements. Consultants must not represent that they can issue accredited ISO 9001 certificates or guarantee certification outcomes. Accredited certification decisions must be made independently by competent certification bodies in accordance with applicable accreditation and conformity-assessment requirements.

Apply / Join the Consultant Network

Qualified professionals are invited to submit an updated CV or executive profile, relevant ISO 9001 training or auditor credentials, industry experience, consulting history, and examples of QMS implementation, transition, audit, or improvement assignments.

Selected consultants may be considered for suitable ISO 9001:2026 consulting, transition, training, advisory, internal-audit, certification-readiness, and quality-transformation engagements based on project scope, client requirements, geography, availability, and demonstrated expertise.

QUALITY SYSTEMS THAT WORK. PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION. SUSTAINABLE IMPROVEMENT.