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Guidelines for auditing management systems (ISO 19011:2026)

Táto norma obsahuje anglickú verziu európskej normy.
This standard includes the English version of the European Standard.

Táto norma bola oznámená vo Vestníku ÚNMS SR č. 08/26

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Guidelines for auditing management systems (ISO 19011:2026)

Lignes directrices pour l'audit des systèmes de
management (ISO 19011:2026)

Leitfaden zur Auditierung von Managementsystemen
(ISO 19011:2026)

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 14 May 2026.

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This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CEN and CENELEC member into its own language and notified to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre has the same status as the official versions.

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European foreword

This document (EN ISO 19011:2026) has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/PC 302 "Guidelines for auditing management systems" in collaboration with Technical Committee CEN-CENELEC/ JTC 1 "Criteria for conformity assessment bodies" the secretariat of which is held by BSI.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by November 2026, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by November 2026.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN-CENELEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document supersedes EN ISO 19011:2018.

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Endorsement notice

The text of ISO 19011:2026 has been approved by CEN-CENELEC as EN ISO 19011:2026 without any modification.



International Standard

ISO 19011

Guidelines for auditing management systems

Lignes directrices pour l'audit des systèmes de management

**Fourth edition
2026-05**

ISO 19011:2026(en)



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ISO 19011:2026(en)**Foreword**

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

ISO draws attention to the possibility that the implementation of this document may involve the use of (a) patent(s). ISO takes no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of any claimed patent rights in respect thereof. As of the date of publication of this document, ISO had not received notice of (a) patent(s) which may be required to implement this document. However, implementers are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information, which may be obtained from the patent database available at www.iso.org/patents. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Project Committee ISO/PC 302, *Guidelines for auditing management systems*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/CLC/JTC 1, *Criteria for conformity assessment bodies*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO 19011:2018), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- expansion of guidance on remote auditing methods through the introduction of guidance contained in ISO/IEC TS 17012;
- expansion of [Annex A](#) to provide guidance on remote auditing methods and virtual locations.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

ISO 19011:2026(en)**Introduction**

Since the third edition of this document was published in 2018, several management system standards have been published in new fields. Most of them have a common structure, identical core requirements, and common terms and core definitions. As a result, there is a need to consider a broader approach to management system auditing, as well as to provide guidance that is more generic.

This document provides guidance which can be applied to audit against a range of audit criteria (separately or in combination) including, but not limited to:

- requirements specified in one or more management system standards;
- policies, processes and requirements specified by the organization or other relevant interested parties;
- statutory and regulatory requirements;
- one or more management system processes defined by the organization and/or other parties;
- management system plan(s) relating to the provision of specific results of a management system (e.g. quality plan, project plan).

This document provides guidance for all organizations regardless of their size and type, and audits of varying scopes. This includes those conducted by large audit teams, typically of larger organizations, and those by single auditors, whether in large or small organizations. This guidance should be adapted as appropriate to the scope and complexity of the audit programme.

This document concentrates on internal audits (first party) and audits conducted by organizations on their external providers and other external interested parties (second party). This document can also be useful for external audits conducted for purposes other than third-party management system certification. ISO/IEC 17021-1 provides requirements for auditing management systems for third-party certification; however, this document can provide useful additional guidance (see [Table 1](#)).

Table 1 — Different types of audits

First party	Second party	Third party
Internal audit	External provider audit	Certification audit or accreditation assessment
	Audit by the external interested party of an organization	Statutory, regulatory and similar audit

ISO/IEC TS 17012 addresses the growing need for remote auditing methods. Its aim is to provide guidance on implementing remote auditing methods effectively while supporting the general principles of auditing as outlined in this document.

To simplify the readability of this document, the singular form of “management system” is preferred, but the reader can adapt the implementation of the guidance to their own situation. This also applies to the use of “individual” and “individuals”, “auditor” and “auditors”.

This document is intended to apply to a broad range of potential users, including auditors, organizations implementing management systems and organizations needing to conduct management system audits for contractual or regulatory reasons. The guidance in this document can be applied to users in developing their own audit-related requirements.

The guidance in this document can also be used for the purpose of self-declaration and can be useful to organizations involved in the training, qualification and certification of persons participating in the audit programme.

The guidance in this document is intended to be flexible. As indicated at various points in the text, the use of this guidance can differ depending on the size and level of maturity of an organization’s management system. The nature and complexity of the organization to be audited, as well as the objectives and scope of the audits to be conducted, should also be considered.

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This document adopts the combined audit approach when two or more management systems of different disciplines are audited together. Where these systems are integrated into a single management system, the principles and processes of auditing are the same as for a combined audit (sometimes known as an “integrated audit”).

Guidelines for auditing management systems

1 Scope

This document gives guidance on auditing management systems, including the principles of auditing, managing an audit programme and conducting management system audits, as well as guidance on the evaluation of competence of individuals involved in the audit process. These individuals include those managing the audit programme, auditors and audit teams.

It is applicable to all organizations that need to plan and conduct audits of management systems or manage an audit programme.

The application of this document to other types of audits is possible, provided that special consideration is given to the specific competence needed and the objectives to be achieved.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

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