

# **100 Common Non-Conformities in ISO 42001 Audits**

A Practical Guide to Identifying, Understanding, and Fixing the  
Most Frequent ISO 42001 Audit Issues in Artificial Intelligence  
Management Systems (AIMS)

## Objectives of This Guide:

Achieving ISO 42001 compliance strengthens an organization's **Artificial Intelligence Management System (AIMS)** and builds trust with users, regulators, and stakeholders.

However, many organizations struggle with **common audit non-conformities** that can delay certification and expose AI systems to ethical, operational, and legal risks.

This guide highlights **100 frequent ISO 42001 audit non-conformities**, complete with practical insights on how to fix them.

- ✓ Identify and address recurring ISO 42001 non-conformities before your audit
- ✓ Provide real-world scenarios that reveal critical AI governance failures
- ✓ Deliver actionable solutions for compliance across ethics, risk, and transparency
- ✓ Promote best practices in responsible AI development, deployment, and oversight
- ✓ Support continuous improvement for AIMS teams, data scientists, and auditors

**This guide is ideal for:**

- AI governance leads, compliance officers, and risk managers preparing for ISO 42001 audits
- AI/ML development teams seeking to align with responsible AI standards
- Consultants and lead auditors supporting ISO 42001 implementation
- Business leaders looking to ensure ethical, scalable, and trustworthy AI

**Use this resource to take a proactive approach to AI compliance, streamline audit readiness, and build a responsible, resilient AI governance framework.**

## 1. No Formal AI Risk Assessment Framework

### **Clause: 6.1 – Addressing Risks & Opportunities**

#### **Scenario:**

An AI startup builds models using public datasets but has no documented risk assessments. The team cannot identify ethical or technical risks like bias or explainability failures.

#### **What's Missing:**

A structured, repeatable AI risk management framework integrated into the development lifecycle.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Build an AI risk register
- ✓ Conduct regular impact assessments (bias, misuse, performance)
- ✓ Involve legal, ethics, and technical teams in evaluation
- ✓ Update the risk framework with each major system change

## 2. Weak Documentation of Risk Treatment

### **Clause: 6.1.3 – Risk Treatment Plan**

#### **Scenario:**

The company acknowledges AI-related risks but treats them informally—mostly through team meetings with no written plans or mitigation actions.

#### **What's Missing:**

A documented Risk Treatment Plan (RTP) linked to the AI risk register.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Create an RTP outlining risks, mitigation steps, owners, and deadlines

- ✓ Track progress with version-controlled documentation
- ✓ Use tools to monitor and report on mitigation progress

### **3. No Internal Audits or Management Reviews of AI Systems**

#### **✦ Clauses: 9.2 & 9.3 – Internal Audit & Management Review**

##### **Scenario:**

AI systems are deployed without audit checkpoints. Leadership is unaware of AI compliance risks or performance metrics.

##### **What's Missing:**

A schedule for internal audits and structured review meetings to evaluate AI governance.

##### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Conduct internal audits annually, covering development, deployment, and post-launch monitoring
- ✓ Document all findings and corrective actions
- ✓ Include AIMS in executive-level management reviews

### **4. Poorly Defined Scope of Applicability (SoA) for AI Controls**

#### **✦ Clause: 6.1.3(d) – Statement of Applicability**

##### **Scenario:**

The organization lists general security controls but doesn't align them with AI-specific risks. Several AI functions have no justification for excluded safeguards.

**What's Missing:**

A clear, AI-focused Statement of Applicability showing which controls apply, and why.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Map SoA to AI-specific controls like model explainability, fairness, and human oversight
- ✓ Provide written justification for exclusions
- ✓ Update the SoA with each risk treatment revision

**5. No KPIs for AI Governance Performance****📌 Clause: 9.1 – Monitoring and Evaluation****Scenario:**

AI projects are launched, but there's no mechanism to measure their ethical, legal, or operational performance.

**What's Missing:**

Defined performance indicators to monitor AI system effectiveness and compliance.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Create AI-specific KPIs (e.g., bias detection rate, accuracy drift, audit closure times)
- ✓ Review KPIs quarterly and align with business objectives
- ✓ Automate performance tracking using dashboards

## 6. Lack of AI Incident Management Process

### 🚩 **Clause: 8.5 – Incident Response and Improvement**

#### **Scenario:**

A chatbot misinforms users, causing reputational harm. The issue is resolved ad-hoc with no root cause analysis or formal report.

#### **What's Missing:**

A formal AI incident response process tied to the AIMS.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Define AI incident types (e.g., model failures, fairness breaches)
- ✓ Set clear roles, escalation paths, and documentation standards
- ✓ Conduct post-incident reviews and feed insights into risk updates

## 7. Insufficient Access Controls for AI Systems

### 🚩 **Clause: 8.4 – Access Control**

#### **Scenario:**

Developers and non-technical staff have full access to AI training data, posing risks to privacy and model integrity.

#### **What's Missing:**

Granular access control aligned with the principle of least privilege.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Use role-based access control (RBAC) for AI-related assets
- ✓ Log access to sensitive datasets and model parameters
- ✓ Conduct quarterly access reviews and remove excess privileges

## 8. No Security Oversight of AI Supply Chain or Third-Party Models

### **Clause: 8.2 – Control of Externally Provided Processes**

#### **Scenario:**

A pre-trained model from an external vendor is used in a customer-facing product, but its risks (bias, poisoning) are never assessed.

#### **What's Missing:**

Due diligence for third-party models and AI tools.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Vet all third-party tools with a supplier security checklist
- ✓ Require assurance documentation (e.g., bias testing, license reviews)
- ✓ Include third-party models in AI risk assessments and contracts

## 9. No AI-Specific Training for Employees

### **Clause: 7.2 – Competence and Awareness**

#### **Scenario:**

Employees involved in AI development are unaware of emerging ethical frameworks and ISO 42001 clauses.

#### **What's Missing:**

Targeted training on responsible AI, regulatory obligations, and organizational AI governance.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Conduct mandatory AI governance training

- ✓ Include topics like transparency, fairness, privacy, and accountability
- ✓ Track participation and issue refresher courses annually

## 10. No Inventory of AI Assets or Models

### ✦ Clause: 8.1 – Operational Planning and Control

#### Scenario:

The organization runs multiple AI systems but has no central inventory. Some models in production are unmonitored and undocumented.

#### What's Missing:

A complete and up-to-date registry of AI models and assets.

#### How to Fix:

- ✓ Build an AI model registry with metadata like purpose, owner, dataset, and risk level
- ✓ Assign ownership for each AI asset
- ✓ Conduct biannual reviews of the inventory

## 11. No AI Ethics Review Board or Oversight Mechanism

### ✦ Clause: 5.1 – Leadership and Commitment

#### Scenario:

The organization has deployed AI systems that impact hiring decisions, but no ethical oversight exists to evaluate potential discrimination or bias.

**What's Missing:**

Formal ethical governance to assess, review, and approve AI systems with societal or individual impact.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Establish an AI Ethics Review Board with cross-functional members (legal, compliance, technical, HR)
- ✓ Mandate reviews for high-impact or high-risk AI use cases
- ✓ Document findings and decisions as part of the AIMS governance record

**12. Lack of Model Lifecycle Management****📌 Clause: 8.1 – Operational Planning and Control****Scenario:**

Multiple AI models are in production, but there's no formal process to track versions, updates, or retirement timelines.

**What's Missing:**

A structured AI lifecycle management process from development to decommissioning.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Create a model lifecycle framework with defined stages (build, test, deploy, monitor, retire)
- ✓ Maintain logs for all model changes
- ✓ Link each model to a unique identifier in the asset inventory

## 13. No Human-in-the-Loop (HITL) Safeguards for Critical AI Systems

### **Clause: 8.6 – Human Oversight**

#### **Scenario:**

A predictive algorithm automates loan approvals with no human validation, even in high-stakes decisions.

#### **What's Missing:**

Mechanisms for human intervention or override in AI-driven decisions that affect individuals or rights.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Introduce human review for high-risk decisions
- ✓ Set thresholds for manual override or escalation
- ✓ Train staff on when and how to intervene

## 14. Poor Documentation of AI Model Purpose and Limitations

### **Clause: 7.5 – Documented Information**

#### **Scenario:**

Auditors request an explanation of an AI model's intended use and known limitations, but no documentation exists.

#### **What's Missing:**

Formal documentation of model objectives, intended audience, assumptions, and risks.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Document every model's purpose, limitations, and expected behavior

- ✓ Include transparency statements for internal and external stakeholders
- ✓ Keep documentation updated after retraining or changes

## 15. No Post-Deployment Monitoring of AI Fairness

### ✦ Clause: 9.1 – Monitoring, Measurement, and Evaluation

#### Scenario:

An AI model initially passed fairness testing but later showed bias due to data drift. No monitoring system was in place to catch it.

#### What's Missing:

Ongoing evaluation of model fairness, accuracy, and drift post-deployment.

#### How to Fix:

- ✓ Define fairness metrics appropriate for your context (e.g., demographic parity)
- ✓ Set thresholds for acceptable variation and retrain when breached
- ✓ Use automated monitoring tools for real-time alerts

## 16. No Bias Testing Framework in Model Development

### ✦ Clause: 6.1 – Risk and Opportunity Assessment

#### Scenario:

Developers assume their dataset is representative but fail to test for underrepresentation of specific groups.

#### What's Missing:

A structured bias testing protocol during training and validation phases.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Mandate bias testing before deployment
- ✓ Use tools to analyze representation and outcome fairness
- ✓ Include bias test results in model documentation

**17. Unsecured Access to Training Data and Models** **Clause: 8.4 – Access Control****Scenario:**

Sensitive training datasets are stored in open cloud buckets with no access restrictions or logging.

**What's Missing:**

Access controls and audit trails to protect sensitive AI-related assets.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Restrict access using RBAC or ABAC policies
- ✓ Encrypt training data in storage and transit
- ✓ Implement logging to track who accessed what and when

**18. No Traceability Between Data, Models, and Decisions** **Clause: 8.7 – Traceability and Record Keeping****Scenario:**

The organization can't explain why a model produced a specific decision because data lineage isn't maintained.

**What's Missing:**

Traceability from input data to model output and final decision.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Maintain data lineage logs
- ✓ Record which dataset and model version were used for each deployment
- ✓ Use explainability tools to connect features with decisions

**19. Lack of Explainability for End-Users** **Clause: 7.4 – Communication and Awareness****Scenario:**

Users affected by automated decisions don't receive an explanation of how or why the decision was made.

**What's Missing:**

Clear, accessible communication of how AI systems make decisions—especially for external stakeholders.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Generate user-friendly summaries of decision logic
- ✓ Provide justification or rationale for decisions where legally or ethically required
- ✓ Offer recourse or appeal mechanisms when needed

## 20. No Contingency Plan for AI System Failures

### 🚩 **Clause: 8.9 – Emergency Preparedness and Response**

#### **Scenario:**

An AI-powered recommendation engine crashes during peak traffic, with no fallback mechanism in place.

#### **What's Missing:**

A documented contingency plan for AI outages or failures.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Create fallback procedures or manual overrides
- ✓ Establish service-level objectives (SLOs) for critical AI systems
- ✓ Simulate AI failure scenarios and update your response plan

## 21. No Third-Party AI Risk Assessment Process

### 🚩 **Clause: 8.2 – Control of Externally Provided Processes**

#### **Scenario:**

An organization integrates a third-party AI analytics tool into its system without assessing its risks. Later, a privacy breach occurs due to lack of transparency in the third-party's data practices.

#### **What's Missing:**

A structured process for evaluating third-party AI risks before onboarding.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Vet vendors using a formal AI risk checklist
- ✓ Require security, bias, and compliance disclosures from all AI partners
- ✓ Incorporate vendor performance and risk into your own AIMS reviews

## 22. No Policy for Responsible AI Deployment

### **Clause: 5.2 – AI Policy and Objectives**

#### **Scenario:**

AI systems are launched without internal policies governing acceptable use, risk thresholds, or social impact considerations.

#### **What's Missing:**

An overarching Responsible AI policy aligned with ISO 42001 principles.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Define acceptable use cases, prohibited applications, and ethical boundaries
- ✓ Align the policy with ISO 42001 and your organizational values
- ✓ Communicate and train employees on the policy regularly

## 23. Lack of Defined AI Roles and Responsibilities

### **Clause: 5.3 – Roles and Responsibilities**

#### **Scenario:**

During an audit, no one can clearly identify who owns the model, data pipeline, or risk assessments for deployed AI systems.

#### **What's Missing:**

Clearly defined roles for every stage of the AI lifecycle and AIMS accountability.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Assign ownership for model development, governance, ethics, and compliance
- ✓ Map roles in a RACI chart and integrate with org structure
- ✓ Review role responsibilities annually or when teams shift

**24. No Change Management Process for AI Model Updates****✦ Clause: 8.8 – Change Management****Scenario:**

A deployed model is retrained with new data but performs unpredictably. The update wasn't documented or risk-reviewed.

**What's Missing:**

A formal process to control and document changes to AI systems.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Create a change request system for model updates
- ✓ Evaluate risks and run validations before production deployment
- ✓ Maintain version control and change logs

**25. No Testing of AI Business Continuity or Failure Scenarios****✦ Clause: 8.9 – Emergency Preparedness and Response****Scenario:**

When an AI-driven logistics system fails, the company has no backup process. Deliveries are delayed for days.

**What's Missing:**

Business continuity and failure response testing specific to AI systems.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Conduct tabletop exercises and technical failover simulations
- ✓ Document expected behaviors under failure conditions
- ✓ Define who takes over in case of AI disruption and how

**26. No Data Provenance Documentation** **Clause: 8.3 – Data Management****Scenario:**

A model uses customer data from various internal sources, but the organization cannot trace where the data originated or how it was processed.

**What's Missing:**

Data provenance tracking and documentation to ensure compliance, explainability, and fairness.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Implement data lineage tools or maintain manual documentation
- ✓ Link each dataset to its source, transformation, and consent mechanism
- ✓ Include data provenance in model training logs

## 27. Lack of Stakeholder Engagement in AI Design

### **Clause: 4.2 – Needs and Expectations of Interested Parties**

#### **Scenario:**

A predictive policing algorithm is deployed without consulting affected community groups, leading to public backlash.

#### **What's Missing:**

Structured stakeholder engagement during AI system planning and development.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Identify internal and external stakeholders early
- ✓ Use surveys, focus groups, or ethics panels to gather input
- ✓ Document how feedback influences design choices

## 28. No Explainability Standards in AI Model Design

### **Clause: 8.7 – Explainability and Transparency**

#### **Scenario:**

A decision-support AI model produces outputs that even developers struggle to interpret.

#### **What's Missing:**

Design-phase explainability standards to ensure outputs can be understood and justified.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Select inherently interpretable models when possible
- ✓ Integrate XAI (Explainable AI) tools for complex models

✓ Provide explanations appropriate to the audience (technical vs non-technical)

## 29. Inconsistent Version Control for AI Models

✦ **Clause: 7.5 – Documented Information**

### **Scenario:**

Multiple versions of the same AI model are in circulation, with no clear documentation of which one is in production.

### **What's Missing:**

Robust version control to track models, datasets, and configuration settings.

### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Use MLOps tools to manage and version models
- ✓ Tag and store metadata (e.g., training data, code version, hyperparameters)
- ✓ Archive deprecated versions and prevent accidental redeployment

## 30. No Communication Strategy for AI System Failures

✦ **Clause: 7.4 – Communication**

### **Scenario:**

An AI-powered customer service bot goes offline for 12 hours, but customers receive no updates, damaging trust.

**What's Missing:**

A defined process for internal and external communication during AI outages or incidents.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Draft communication templates for AI failure scenarios
- ✓ Define who communicates what, when, and through which channel
- ✓ Include escalation steps and status update timelines

**31. No Procedure for Decommissioning AI Models****✦ Clause: 8.1 – Operational Planning and Control****Scenario:**

An outdated AI model is still active in production, even though a new version was deployed six months ago. Users receive inconsistent outputs.

**What's Missing:**

A structured decommissioning process to retire outdated or underperforming AI models.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Define decommissioning criteria (e.g., low accuracy, regulatory changes)
- ✓ Archive old models and clearly mark them as inactive
- ✓ Communicate model retirement to impacted teams or users

## 32. AI Training Data Stored Without Retention or Deletion Policy

### ✦ Clause: 8.3 – Data Management

#### **Scenario:**

The organization retains all AI training data indefinitely—including outdated personal information—without any deletion schedule.

#### **What’s Missing:**

A formal data retention and disposal policy tied to AI datasets.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Set retention periods based on data type and purpose
- ✓ Securely delete training data that’s no longer needed
- ✓ Document deletion logs and align with privacy regulations (e.g., GDPR)

## 33. No Review of AI System Impact on Human Rights

### ✦ Clause: 4.2 – Needs and Expectations of Interested Parties

#### **Scenario:**

An AI surveillance system is deployed without considering its implications for privacy, discrimination, or freedom of movement.

#### **What’s Missing:**

An ethical impact assessment addressing AI’s effect on fundamental rights.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Conduct Human Rights Impact Assessments (HRIAs) for high-risk systems
- ✓ Involve external advisors or civil society where applicable
- ✓ Include mitigation strategies for identified risks

### **34. Inadequate Logging of AI System Activities**

 **Clause: 9.1 – Monitoring and Evaluation**

#### **Scenario:**

After a system failure, the root cause cannot be determined because logs were incomplete or missing.

#### **What's Missing:**

Comprehensive logging of AI activities, decisions, and data interactions.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Log inputs, outputs, errors, access events, and overrides
- ✓ Use centralized log management tools
- ✓ Regularly review logs to identify anomalies or system drift

### **35. No Periodic Review of AI Risk Assessments**

 **Clause: 6.1.2 – Risk Identification and Evaluation**

#### **Scenario:**

The AI risk register hasn't been updated in over a year, even though new systems and datasets have been introduced.

#### **What's Missing:**

A cadence for reviewing and updating AI risk assessments.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Schedule quarterly or biannual risk assessment reviews

- ✓ Update the register after model updates, incidents, or policy changes
- ✓ Link risk changes to controls and mitigation plans

### **36. No Consent Mechanism for AI Data Collection**

#### **Clause: 8.3 – Data Management**

##### **Scenario:**

User data is collected and used to train personalization algorithms without transparent consent.

##### **What's Missing:**

A mechanism to ensure informed user consent for data used in AI.

##### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Implement clear opt-in/opt-out options for data usage
- ✓ Document consent logs and integrate with your AIMS
- ✓ Allow users to revoke consent and update models accordingly

### **37. Inadequate Testing for Adversarial Attacks**

#### **Clause: 8.6 – AI System Security**

##### **Scenario:**

The AI vision system is fooled by simple adversarial examples (e.g., manipulated images), but this vulnerability was never tested.

##### **What's Missing:**

Security testing for adversarial robustness in AI models.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Conduct adversarial testing as part of model validation
- ✓ Use AI-specific penetration testing tools
- ✓ Build model hardening strategies based on findings

**38. Lack of Policy for Shadow AI Detection****📌 Clause: 8.1 – Operational Planning and Control****Scenario:**

An internal team builds and deploys a generative AI tool without oversight, violating company AI governance rules.

**What's Missing:**

Controls to detect and manage “shadow AI” systems developed without approval.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Implement a centralized AI system registration process
- ✓ Use internal audits to identify unauthorized AI deployments
- ✓ Enforce disciplinary or corrective measures for policy violations

### 39. AI Development Not Integrated into the SDLC

#### **Clause: 8.8 – Change Management and Development**

##### **Scenario:**

AI is treated as an isolated research project with no formal process for testing, staging, or integration into DevOps pipelines.

##### **What's Missing:**

Integration of AI development into the secure software development lifecycle (SDLC).

##### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Extend DevSecOps practices to cover AI lifecycle activities
- ✓ Introduce gates for ethics, bias, and explainability checks
- ✓ Align AI deployment with existing release and rollback workflows

### 40. No Mechanism to Monitor and Mitigate Model Drift

#### **Clause: 9.1 – Performance Monitoring**

##### **Scenario:**

A fraud detection model becomes ineffective as new fraud patterns emerge, but no monitoring alerts were triggered.

##### **What's Missing:**

A process to detect model drift and automatically trigger review or retraining.

##### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Set drift detection thresholds (e.g., accuracy, input distribution)

- ✓ Use real-time monitoring and alerts for critical models
- ✓ Define triggers for retraining or rollback procedures

#### **41. No Defined Criteria for AI Model Performance Evaluation**

##### **✦ Clause: 9.1 – Monitoring, Measurement, Analysis, and Evaluation**

###### **Scenario:**

Deployed AI models are reviewed periodically, but there are no clear benchmarks to determine whether they are performing acceptably.

###### **What's Missing:**

Defined performance indicators and thresholds for success/failure.

###### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Establish quantitative KPIs (e.g., precision, recall, latency, false positive rate)
- ✓ Include qualitative metrics (e.g., user satisfaction, ethical alignment)
- ✓ Regularly assess performance and link findings to improvement plans

#### **42. No Policy for Responsible Use of Generative AI**

##### **✦ Clause: 5.2 – AI Policy and Objectives**

###### **Scenario:**

Employees begin using ChatGPT-like tools in business operations without any rules governing output validation or data input risks.

**What's Missing:**

Governance over the use of generative AI, including prompt safety, copyright concerns, and hallucination risks.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Define acceptable use cases for generative AI
- ✓ Train employees on risks and output validation
- ✓ Implement approval processes and disclosure guidelines for public-facing use

**43. Inconsistent Application of AI Controls Across Business Units****📌 Clause: 4.3 – Determining the Scope of the AIMS****Scenario:**

One department has robust AI governance, while another uses AI tools with no oversight, resulting in uneven compliance.

**What's Missing:**

A harmonized AIMS that applies consistently across the entire organization.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Clearly define the AIMS scope to include all business units using or developing AI
- ✓ Standardize governance tools, documentation, and training
- ✓ Conduct cross-functional reviews to ensure consistent application

## 44. AI Systems Operate Without User Feedback Loops

### **Clause: 9.1 – Monitoring and Continuous Improvement**

#### **Scenario:**

End users receive AI-generated recommendations, but there's no channel to report issues, inaccuracies, or unintended consequences.

#### **What's Missing:**

Structured feedback mechanisms to gather user input and improve system performance.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Implement user feedback forms or in-app reporting features
- ✓ Assign responsibility for reviewing and acting on feedback
- ✓ Use feedback trends to refine models or retrain where needed

## 45. No Structured Method for Documenting AI Model Assumptions

### **Clause: 7.5 – Documented Information**

#### **Scenario:**

During an audit, developers cannot recall the assumptions or constraints applied during model training.

#### **What's Missing:**

Documentation of underlying assumptions, use limitations, and design trade-offs.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Require a “Model Card” or equivalent artifact for each system
- ✓ Include assumptions, known limitations, data bias concerns, and

expected use cases

- ✓ Review and update documentation with every major model change

#### **46. No Formal Process for AI Model Validation Before Deployment**

 **Clause: 8.1 – Operational Planning and Control**

##### **Scenario:**

AI models are deployed after basic performance checks, but without formal testing against adversarial cases or edge scenarios.

##### **What's Missing:**

A rigorous validation protocol to verify AI model reliability before deployment.

##### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Establish a checklist of validation steps (fairness, security, stability)
- ✓ Use benchmark datasets and scenario testing
- ✓ Require sign-off by compliance and technical leads

#### **47. Lack of Regulatory Mapping for AI Use Cases**

 **Clause: 4.2 – Needs and Expectations of Interested Parties**

##### **Scenario:**

An AI tool processes biometric data, but the organization is unaware of applicable data protection laws in multiple regions.

**What's Missing:**

Mapping of AI use cases to legal and regulatory requirements (e.g., GDPR, HIPAA, EU AI Act).

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Conduct legal reviews for every high-risk AI use case
- ✓ Maintain a compliance matrix aligned with jurisdictions and AI functionalities
- ✓ Involve legal counsel early in AI product development

**48. No Controls Around AI System Retraining Frequency****📌 Clause: 8.1 – Operational Planning and Model Maintenance****Scenario:**

An AI model trained on seasonal data hasn't been retrained in over a year, resulting in degraded performance and errors.

**What's Missing:**

Retraining schedule and triggers based on data changes or performance drift.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Define retraining intervals based on use case (e.g., quarterly, post-drift)
- ✓ Use automation to flag models for review when thresholds are breached
- ✓ Log retraining activities and version changes

## 49. Absence of AI-Specific Threat Modeling in Development

### **Clause: 6.1 – Risk Management**

#### **Scenario:**

Security reviews cover infrastructure, but not AI-specific threats like data poisoning, adversarial attacks, or model inversion.

#### **What's Missing:**

AI-tailored threat modeling as part of the secure development lifecycle.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Integrate threat modeling sessions into AI development planning
- ✓ Include risks like inference attacks, training data leakage, model theft
- ✓ Use frameworks like MITRE ATLAS for AI threat identification

## 50. No External Disclosure of AI System Usage to Users

### **Clause: 7.4 – Communication and Transparency**

#### **Scenario:**

Users interact with an AI-driven decision tool on a website without being informed that the system is automated.

#### **What's Missing:**

Transparency about AI involvement in decision-making, as required by ethical and legal standards.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Clearly disclose when users are interacting with or being influenced by AI

- ✓ Include disclaimers or AI usage statements on digital interfaces
- ✓ Provide contact info or appeal options for automated decisions

## **51. No Monitoring of Environmental Impact of AI Systems**

### **✦ Clause: 4.1 – Understanding the Organization and Its Context**

#### **Scenario:**

A large-scale AI model is trained using significant compute resources, but the environmental impact (energy use, emissions) is never measured or reported.

#### **What's Missing:**

Consideration of sustainability and environmental risks as part of AI system planning.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Assess energy consumption and carbon footprint of AI infrastructure
- ✓ Choose efficient model architectures and green data centers
- ✓ Document environmental considerations in AI risk assessments

## **52. No Backup or Rollback Plan for AI System Updates**

### **✦ Clause: 8.9 – Emergency Preparedness and Response**

#### **Scenario:**

An updated recommendation engine introduces serious errors, but the organization lacks a backup model or rollback plan.

**What's Missing:**

A recovery plan in case of faulty AI system deployments.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Implement rollback capabilities in deployment pipelines
- ✓ Maintain backup versions of previously validated models
- ✓ Test rollback procedures as part of regular drills

**53. No Integration of AI Governance with Enterprise Risk Management (ERM)****✦ Clause: 6.1 – Risk-Based Thinking****Scenario:**

AI-related risks are managed separately from broader enterprise risks, leading to duplication and oversight gaps.

**What's Missing:**

Alignment between AI risk processes and the organization's ERM framework.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Integrate AI risks into the corporate risk register
- ✓ Involve AI governance teams in enterprise risk reviews
- ✓ Report AI-related risks to executive risk committees

## 54. Incomplete Asset Inventory of AI-Related Components

### **Clause: 8.1 – Operational Control**

#### **Scenario:**

An audit reveals that the organization cannot produce a complete list of AI tools, APIs, datasets, and models in use.

#### **What's Missing:**

A central, current inventory of all AI-related assets.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Build a structured AI asset registry (models, training datasets, APIs, platforms)
- ✓ Assign asset owners and update records quarterly
- ✓ Use automated discovery tools where possible

## 55. No Assessment of Social Impact for AI Applications

### **Clause: 4.2 – Needs and Expectations of Interested Parties**

#### **Scenario:**

An AI tool used in public housing decisions is launched without evaluating its effect on vulnerable populations.

#### **What's Missing:**

Social impact assessments for high-impact AI deployments.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Evaluate societal effects (inclusion, bias, accessibility) during planning
- ✓ Include community stakeholders in the assessment process
- ✓ Use findings to refine model goals and governance controls

## 56. No Pre-Deployment Review of Legal and Ethical Risks

### **Clause: 6.1 – Risk Identification and Mitigation**

#### **Scenario:**

An AI product is launched without reviewing legal requirements for data protection, discrimination, or consumer rights.

#### **What's Missing:**

A mandatory checkpoint for legal and ethical risks before go-live.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Include legal/ethics leads in AI go/no-go decisions
- ✓ Maintain a pre-launch checklist of legal, regulatory, and ethical requirements
- ✓ Delay deployment until all risks are reviewed and documented

## 57. AI Training Data Collected Without Purpose Limitation

### **Clause: 8.3 – Data Management**

#### **Scenario:**

Data gathered for customer support is later used to train sentiment analysis models—without notifying users or reassessing consent.

#### **What's Missing:**

Adherence to purpose limitation principles for data reuse.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Clearly define intended use when collecting data

- ✓ If repurposing data, assess legal, ethical, and consent implications
- ✓ Update privacy notices and get new consent if required

## 58. Lack of Procedures for Auditing AI Ethics Compliance

### 📌 Clause: 9.2 – Internal Audit

#### Scenario:

Internal audits focus on IT security and regulatory compliance but never evaluate fairness, transparency, or explainability.

#### What's Missing:

AI ethics checkpoints within the audit process.

#### How to Fix:

- ✓ Include ethical impact criteria in internal audit scope
- ✓ Train auditors to review bias mitigation, transparency, and oversight
- ✓ Use AI-specific audit templates and checklists

## 59. No Mechanism for Users to Challenge or Appeal AI Decisions

### 📌 Clause: 7.4 – Communication with Stakeholders

#### Scenario:

An automated system denies users access to a service, and there's no clear way to dispute or appeal the outcome.

#### What's Missing:

Appeal mechanisms for decisions made (or influenced) by AI.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Create a documented process for users to challenge outcomes
- ✓ Assign human reviewers to evaluate appeals
- ✓ Communicate the option to appeal in user-facing interfaces

**60. AI Documentation Lacks Version History and Change Logs** **Clause: 7.5 – Documented Information****Scenario:**

Auditors find that documentation for an AI model has been updated multiple times, but changes aren't tracked.

**What's Missing:**

Version control and change history for critical AI documentation.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Use version control systems (e.g., Git) for model documentation
- ✓ Maintain changelogs for key documents (model cards, risk registers, SoA)
- ✓ Require approval and sign-off for major document revisions

**61. No Integration of AI Controls into Vendor Contracts** **Clause: 8.2 – Control of Externally Provided Processes****Scenario:**

A vendor provides AI tools and services, but there are no contract clauses requiring ethical AI practices, bias testing, or transparency.

**What's Missing:**

Contractual controls to extend your AIMS to third-party AI vendors.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Include AI governance requirements in all contracts and SLAs
- ✓ Require vendors to adhere to ISO 42001-aligned practices
- ✓ Mandate reporting of incidents, audits, or material changes in their systems

**62. AI Systems Built Without Stakeholder Risk Workshops****📌 Clause: 4.2 – Needs and Expectations of Interested Parties****Scenario:**

The risk register reflects only technical inputs—there's no consultation with impacted departments or end users.

**What's Missing:**

Stakeholder-driven risk identification during early planning phases.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Conduct cross-functional risk workshops involving HR, legal, product, and affected teams
- ✓ Document concerns from all parties and address them in the AI risk register
- ✓ Update risk mitigation strategies based on stakeholder insights

## 63. No Defined Roles for AI Model Review and Sign-Off

### **Clause: 5.3 – Roles, Responsibilities, and Authorities**

#### **Scenario:**

An AI model is deployed without formal review or approval. No one is accountable for vetting its performance or risk posture.

#### **What's Missing:**

Assigned accountability for final review and sign-off before launch.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Assign clear model sign-off authority (AI governance lead, ethics officer, risk manager)
- ✓ Require documented approval for every production deployment
- ✓ Link sign-off to validation, testing, and compliance checklists

## 64. No Policy for Handling Public Data in AI Training

### **Clause: 8.3 – Data Management**

#### **Scenario:**

The organization scrapes public forums for training data, but doesn't assess legal or ethical implications of using public content.

#### **What's Missing:**

Guidelines for sourcing and validating publicly available training data.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Define acceptable sources and criteria for public data use
- ✓ Assess IP, copyright, consent, and bias implications
- ✓ Apply filters or remove sensitive information from public datasets

## 65. AI System Lifecycle Not Linked to Business Objectives

### **Clause: 6.2 – Objectives of the AIMS**

#### **Scenario:**

AI projects are launched with technical success metrics only—there’s no alignment with company strategy or values.

#### **What’s Missing:**

Business-aligned objectives driving AI development and use.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Link AI outcomes (e.g., automation, accuracy, fairness) to business KPIs
- ✓ Include strategic objectives in model documentation
- ✓ Involve business leaders in the AI design and review phases

## 66. No Audit Trail for AI Model Retraining Activities

### **Clause: 7.5 – Documented Information**

#### **Scenario:**

Auditors request evidence of retraining activity after a major data shift—but logs are missing or inconsistent.

#### **What’s Missing:**

Retraining documentation and traceability of when and how models evolve.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Document every retraining instance with dates, data used, reasons, and performance metrics

- ✓ Store logs in a centralized, secure location
- ✓ Include retraining audits in your AIMS review process

## 67. AI Performance Not Benchmarked Against Alternatives

### ✦ Clause: 9.1 – Evaluation and Effectiveness

#### **Scenario:**

An AI-driven customer support system is underperforming, but there's no baseline comparison against manual or rule-based methods.

#### **What's Missing:**

Benchmarking to validate AI effectiveness versus traditional approaches.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Define benchmark scenarios and KPIs for comparison
- ✓ Measure AI vs. manual process accuracy, cost, speed, and fairness
- ✓ Use findings to support deployment decisions or revert when needed

## 68. No Consideration of Cultural Sensitivity in AI Outputs

### ✦ Clause: 4.2 – Needs and Expectations of Interested Parties

#### **Scenario:**

A language model generates responses that unintentionally offend users from certain regions due to cultural nuances.

#### **What's Missing:**

Cultural sensitivity and localization reviews during AI design.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Involve linguists and cultural experts in high-impact AI projects
- ✓ Test outputs in multilingual and multicultural contexts
- ✓ Set redlines for cultural content and offensive output filtering

**69. No Escalation Process for AI Ethics Concerns** **Clause: 8.6 – Human Oversight****Scenario:**

Team members identify ethical concerns during development but have no formal route to report or escalate them.

**What's Missing:**

An ethics escalation channel within your AI governance framework.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Create an internal hotline or reporting form for ethical concerns
- ✓ Assign a designated reviewer (e.g., Ethics Officer)
- ✓ Track cases and resolutions to improve future practices

**70. Lack of Integration Between AI and Data Privacy Teams** **Clause: 5.1 – Leadership and Coordination****Scenario:**

AI and privacy teams operate in silos. Personal data is used in model training without DPO (Data Protection Officer) involvement.

**What's Missing:**

Cross-team coordination to ensure privacy is embedded in AI design.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Involve the DPO in all high-risk AI development and reviews
- ✓ Establish joint workflows between AI, compliance, and legal
- ✓ Embed privacy impact assessments (PIAs) into the AI lifecycle

**71. No Periodic Testing of AI System Explainability** **Clause: 8.7 – Explainability and Transparency****Scenario:**

The organization claims its AI models are explainable, but regular testing of explanation clarity and relevance isn't performed.

**What's Missing:**

Ongoing validation that AI decisions remain interpretable over time.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Test explanation quality with technical and non-technical users
- ✓ Use updated examples after retraining or data shifts
- ✓ Document improvements and user feedback on explainability

**72. Lack of Monitoring for AI Hallucinations in Generative Systems** **Clause: 9.1 – Monitoring, Measurement, and Evaluation****Scenario:**

A generative AI tool produces fabricated information, but there's no monitoring or control to detect hallucinated outputs.

**What's Missing:**

A strategy to identify, log, and respond to generative hallucinations.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Flag high-risk outputs with uncertainty scoring or disclaimers
- ✓ Monitor for hallucinations using prompt tracking and content reviews
- ✓ Fine-tune or constrain models based on problem areas

**73. AI System Not Reviewed Following Regulatory Updates** **Clause: 6.1 – Risk and Compliance Management****Scenario:**

A new regional law requires disclosure of automated decision-making, but deployed AI systems were never reviewed or updated.

**What's Missing:**

Regulatory change tracking tied to AI system reviews.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Monitor global AI and data regulations continuously
- ✓ Maintain a log of system reviews triggered by legal changes
- ✓ Assign responsibility to legal/compliance teams for alerting relevant stakeholders

## **74. No Controls for AI Use in Sensitive Functions (e.g., Hiring, Healthcare)**

### **📌 Clause: 8.1 – Operational Planning and Control**

#### **Scenario:**

An AI tool is used in recruitment decisions without additional controls for fairness, explainability, or human review.

#### **What's Missing:**

Stricter governance for AI used in high-impact domains.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Apply heightened controls and audits to high-risk applications
- ✓ Require bias testing, ethical reviews, and human-in-the-loop mechanisms
- ✓ Flag these systems as "critical" in your AIMS asset register

## **75. No Internal Training on ISO 42001 or AIMS Requirements**

### **📌 Clause: 7.2 – Competence and Awareness**

#### **Scenario:**

Staff involved in AI development are unaware of ISO 42001 or the organization's Artificial Intelligence Management System.

#### **What's Missing:**

Awareness and education on ISO 42001 principles and internal policies.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Run training sessions for relevant teams (AI, risk, compliance, execs)
- ✓ Include ISO 42001 basics, governance roles, and non-conformity risks
- ✓ Refresh annually and track participation

## 76. No Audit Trail for AI-Driven Decisions

### **Clause: 9.1 – Monitoring and Traceability**

#### **Scenario:**

A user is negatively impacted by an AI-driven decision, but the organization cannot reconstruct how the output was generated.

#### **What's Missing:**

Traceability logs linking input data, model version, and decision outcome.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Log all decision-making steps: input, process, output, timestamp, model version
- ✓ Secure and retain logs for a defined period
- ✓ Review logs during incidents, audits, and retraining

## 77. AI Risk Assessments Do Not Include Edge Cases or Adversarial Scenarios

### **Clause: 6.1.2 – AI Risk Identification**

#### **Scenario:**

The risk register only considers expected behaviors, ignoring what happens when inputs are manipulated or edge cases occur.

#### **What's Missing:**

Consideration of adversarial inputs and failure modes.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Run scenario analysis using edge case inputs
- ✓ Simulate adversarial attacks to test model robustness
- ✓ Document failure handling strategies and update controls accordingly

**78. No Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) for Model and Data Pipelines** **Clause: 8.4 – Access Control****Scenario:**

Multiple staff have unrestricted access to live AI pipelines and sensitive training data without clear justification.

**What's Missing:**

Access control by role and least-privilege principles.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Implement RBAC policies for AI systems and data assets
- ✓ Review access rights quarterly
- ✓ Revoke access when roles change or projects conclude

**79. No Guidelines for the Use of Synthetic Data in AI Training** **Clause: 8.3 – Data Management****Scenario:**

Synthetic data is used in training, but there are no internal criteria to ensure its quality, utility, or ethical implications.

**What's Missing:**

Policy and procedures for generating and validating synthetic data.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Define acceptable use cases for synthetic data
- ✓ Validate synthetic datasets for realism, bias, and privacy
- ✓ Document generation methods and link to model documentation

**80. AI Systems Lack End-of-Life Planning****📌 Clause: 8.1 – Lifecycle Management****Scenario:**

AI systems remain operational long after their usefulness or support has ended, creating unmanaged risks.

**What's Missing:**

Defined criteria and processes for system decommissioning.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Include “end-of-life” as a required step in AI lifecycle management
- ✓ Document when and how systems will be retired
- ✓ Archive related data, logs, and models securely

## 81. No Process to Assess the Ethical Use of AI in Marketing

### **Clause: 4.2 – Needs and Expectations of Interested Parties**

#### **Scenario:**

An AI tool personalizes ads based on user behavior, but there's no ethical review of targeting practices or manipulation risks.

#### **What's Missing:**

Ethical assessment for AI-driven persuasion or behavioral targeting.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Review marketing use cases for manipulation, profiling, or discrimination
- ✓ Establish red lines (e.g., no targeting based on sensitive attributes)
- ✓ Involve ethics officers or external advisors in high-risk reviews

## 82. AI Training Pipelines Lack Data Quality Validation Steps

### **Clause: 8.3 – Data Management**

#### **Scenario:**

Models are trained using datasets with missing values and labeling errors, leading to unpredictable behavior.

#### **What's Missing:**

Data quality checks during pipeline design and ingestion.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Validate training data for accuracy, completeness, and consistency
- ✓ Implement automated checks for outliers, duplicates, and label issues
- ✓ Document quality metrics as part of model development artifacts

## 83. Lack of User Education on AI Limitations and Risks

### **Clause: 7.4 – Communication**

#### **Scenario:**

Users trust AI-generated results as fact, unaware of limitations like bias, inaccuracy, or hallucinations.

#### **What's Missing:**

User awareness of system boundaries and potential risks.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Provide clear disclaimers or explanations with AI outputs
- ✓ Offer user guides or tutorials for interacting with AI responsibly
- ✓ Communicate fallback options or when to consult a human

## 84. No Controls for Prompt Injection or Manipulation in AI Interfaces

### **Clause: 8.6 – AI System Security**

#### **Scenario:**

A generative AI assistant is vulnerable to prompt injection, allowing users to manipulate it into unsafe behavior.

#### **What's Missing:**

Defensive mechanisms against input manipulation in user-facing AI.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Sanitize and validate all user inputs
- ✓ Implement safeguards like token limits, response filtering, and context resets
- ✓ Continuously test for jailbreaks and injection vulnerabilities

## **85. AI Performance Metrics Are Not Aligned with Stakeholder Expectations**

 **Clause: 6.2 – AIMS Objectives**

### **Scenario:**

The development team tracks technical metrics like accuracy, but stakeholders care about fairness and user satisfaction.

### **What's Missing:**

Business and user-aligned performance evaluation.

### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Define KPIs with stakeholder input
- ✓ Balance precision/recall with ethical and experiential goals
- ✓ Recalibrate metrics as feedback and expectations evolve

## **86. No Evaluation of AI Use in Internal HR or Employee Monitoring Systems**

 **Clause: 4.2 – Needs and Expectations of Interested Parties**

### **Scenario:**

An AI system monitors productivity and flags “underperformers,” but there’s no ethical or legal assessment of its impact on employees.

### **What's Missing:**

Human-centered review of AI use in HR and workforce analytics.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Conduct risk and fairness assessments before deploying HR-related AI
- ✓ Consult legal and HR stakeholders
- ✓ Document oversight and ensure transparency with affected employees

**87. AI-Driven Systems Lack Localization or Regional Adaptation** **Clause: 4.1 – Understanding Context****Scenario:**

An AI assistant built for global rollout performs poorly in non-English markets due to cultural and language mismatches.

**What's Missing:**

Localization planning and testing for diverse user groups.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Adapt AI outputs, tone, and logic to regional needs
- ✓ Test systems in local languages with local users
- ✓ Include cultural advisors in product and testing phases

**88. No Regular Review of AI Documentation for Accuracy and Relevance** **Clause: 7.5 – Documented Information****Scenario:**

Auditors find outdated or incomplete documentation describing model purpose, data, and ownership.

**What's Missing:**

Periodic documentation reviews to ensure reliability.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Set a documentation review schedule (e.g., quarterly or post-deployment)
- ✓ Use version control to track updates
- ✓ Assign responsibility for maintaining documentation accuracy

**89. Inadequate Consideration of AI Risks in Mergers & Acquisitions (M&A)****📌 Clause: 6.1 – Risk Identification and Evaluation****Scenario:**

An acquired company brings AI models with undocumented risks and no governance history.

**What's Missing:**

Due diligence process for AI assets during M&A.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Assess AI models for data lineage, risk, IP status, and compliance gaps
- ✓ Integrate acquired AI assets into your AIMS immediately
- ✓ Revalidate models under your organization's governance controls

## 90. No Assessment of Long-Term Societal Impact of AI Technologies

### **Clause: 4.1 – Context of the Organization**

#### **Scenario:**

The company launches an AI-driven content recommender that contributes to echo chambers, but long-term societal effects were never considered.

#### **What's Missing:**

Forward-looking analysis of systemic AI impact.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Include societal impact in AI ethics and governance reviews
- ✓ Evaluate feedback loops, content amplification, and behavioral change risks
- ✓ Consult external ethics advisors for critical systems

## 91. No Process to Phase Out Unsustainable AI Practices

### **Clause: 4.1 – Understanding Context and Sustainability**

#### **Scenario:**

High-resource models are continuously trained with no review of environmental cost or sustainable alternatives.

#### **What's Missing:**

Governance for identifying and replacing environmentally unsustainable practices.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Track compute usage and emissions of AI workloads

- ✓ Phase out inefficient models or processes
- ✓ Evaluate trade-offs between performance and sustainability

## 92. No Policy for Dual-Use or High-Risk AI Research

### ✦ Clause: 6.1 – Risk Assessment

#### Scenario:

A research team develops an advanced generative model that could be misused (e.g., for misinformation) without governance review.

#### What's Missing:

Dual-use and misuse prevention protocols.

#### How to Fix:

- ✓ Identify dual-use risks in early research stages
- ✓ Apply ethics review and usage restrictions
- ✓ Restrict open deployment and model weights sharing when warranted

## 93. Lack of Procedures to Retire AI Features That Cause Harm

### ✦ Clause: 10.1 – Nonconformity and Corrective Action

#### Scenario:

A chatbot feature generates offensive content, but the organization delays removal due to business pressure.

#### What's Missing:

A clear path to sunset harmful features quickly and transparently.

#### How to Fix:

- ✓ Build deactivation into your incident response process

- ✓ Monitor for harm and escalate rapidly
- ✓ Communicate deprecations clearly to users and internal teams

## 94. No Post-Mortem Analysis for AI Incidents

### **Clause: 10.2 – Continual Improvement**

#### **Scenario:**

An AI malfunction affects customer experience, but there's no structured debrief to prevent recurrence.

#### **What's Missing:**

Post-incident learning and preventive process enhancement.

#### **How to Fix:**

- ✓ Conduct structured post-mortems for every significant AI issue
- ✓ Include root cause, contributing factors, and corrective actions
- ✓ Feed insights into training, documentation, and governance updates

## 95. Infrequent Review of the Artificial Intelligence Management System (AIMS)

### **Clause: 9.3 – Management Review**

#### **Scenario:**

The AIMS has not been updated in over 18 months, despite several new tools and regulatory changes.

#### **What's Missing:**

Regular strategic review of the overall AI governance system.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Schedule biannual AIMS reviews with leadership
- ✓ Evaluate effectiveness, scope, resource needs, and compliance alignment
- ✓ Capture new risks, stakeholder needs, and audit findings

**96. No Independent Oversight of High-Risk AI Projects****✦ Clause: 5.1 – Leadership and Oversight****Scenario:**

All decisions for a controversial AI deployment are made within the same team, without independent review or dissenting input.

**What's Missing:**

Neutral, cross-functional oversight for projects with elevated societal impact.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Mandate external review boards or independent internal committees
- ✓ Rotate reviewers and include ethical or public-interest representatives
- ✓ Document dissenting opinions and how they were addressed

**97. Failure to Track and Learn from Industry AI Failures****✦ Clause: 10.2 – Continual Improvement****Scenario:**

Despite widely publicized failures in similar AI systems (e.g., bias lawsuits, compliance fines), the organization doesn't apply those lessons internally.

**What's Missing:**

External learning and adaptive governance.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Track AI-related news, legal cases, and regulator updates
- ✓ Add a “Lessons Learned” section to your AIMS documentation
- ✓ Review external incidents quarterly and apply improvements

**98. No Process for Transparent Communication of AI Capabilities and Limitations** **Clause: 7.4 – Stakeholder Communication****Scenario:**

Marketing materials overstate the precision of an AI tool, leading to unrealistic user expectations.

**What's Missing:**

Fact-checking and transparency in how AI is positioned externally.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Review public-facing materials for AI claims
- ✓ Disclose capabilities, known limitations, and boundaries of use
- ✓ Involve compliance, legal, and ethics teams in review

**99. No Real-Time Monitoring of Mission-Critical AI Systems** **Clause: 9.1 – Monitoring and Evaluation**

**Scenario:**

An AI system that controls industrial machinery fails, causing costly downtime, because real-time alerts weren't in place.

**What's Missing:**

Live monitoring and proactive alerts for critical AI applications.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Set up monitoring dashboards with anomaly detection
- ✓ Define alert thresholds and escalation paths
- ✓ Integrate alerts with operational response teams

**100. AI System Improvement Suggestions from Users Are Not Captured or Reviewed****📌 Clause: 10.2 – Continual Improvement****Scenario:**

Users regularly share feedback on improving an AI product, but it's not collected, tracked, or acted on.

**What's Missing:**

A feedback loop from users into AI system design and updates.

**How to Fix:**

- ✓ Implement a feedback capture system (e.g., forms, tickets, NPS prompts)
- ✓ Review feedback regularly during governance meetings
- ✓ Prioritize common suggestions for system improvement

## Advancing Your ISO 42001 Compliance Journey

Achieving ISO 42001 certification is more than a milestone — it's a commitment to building AI systems that are ethical, transparent, and accountable.

By addressing these 100 common non-conformities, you're not just preparing for an audit. You're establishing a foundation for trustworthy AI governance, reducing reputational and operational risk, and aligning with the future of responsible innovation.

### **AI Governance Requires Momentum**

AI is constantly evolving — and so are its risks. Continuous monitoring, bias reviews, retraining, stakeholder engagement, and ethical oversight must be **woven into your AIMS lifecycle** to ensure long-term compliance and resilience.

### **Transparency and Traceability Are Non-Negotiable**

Documenting decisions, managing model lifecycles, and maintaining audit trails aren't just technical tasks — they are essential for **demonstrating accountability**, building stakeholder trust, and withstanding regulatory scrutiny.

### **Compliance as a Competitive Differentiator**

Organizations that treat AI governance as a strategic advantage — not a checkbox — will lead the next wave of innovation. A well-executed ISO 42001 framework will **set your organization apart**, unlock global partnerships, and future-proof your AI strategy.

**Use this guide as your survival kit** — a field-tested resource to identify blind spots, correct course, and mature your AI Management System into a vehicle for sustainable, responsible growth.

# CERTIFIED ISO 42001:2023 LEAD AUDITOR

ISO/IEC 42001:2023 Lead Auditor Certification is based on  
Artificial Intelligence Management System



## ABOUT GSDC CERTIFICATION



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## LEARNING OBJECTIVE

- Ensure responsible and ethical use of AI in organizations.
- Navigate the intricate realm of AI-influenced organizational auditing.
- Apply best auditing practices for AIMS.
- Interpret ISO/IEC 42001 requirements from an auditor's perspective.

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