

The Registration Standards for RTOs 2025

What could the move to the 2025 Standards mean for your RTO? The table below provides a comparison in several key areas and offers potential implications for RTOs. Your RTO's operating environment and systems, student cohort, and scope will guide what the implications are for your RTO

Theme	2015 Standards	2025 Standards	Implications / Actions for RTOs
Focus on Outcomes vs Inputs	Emphasis on inputs (e.g. hours, forms, prescriptive clauses)	Emphasis on outcomes for learners, employers, and quality of training	Gather and analyse evidence of impact—learner progression, competency, and satisfaction
Compliance vs Self-Assurance	Compliance is verified primarily through audits	RTOs are expected to monitor and improve performance actively	Develop a self-assurance framework with reviews and governance involvement
Structure and Complexity	Eight standards with many detailed clauses	Four outcome-based areas with simplified, clearer expectations	Review and realign policies and systems to reflect the new structure
Learner Support and Wellbeing	Limited learner support requirements	Expanded focus on wellbeing, inclusion, and tailored support	Evaluate support services and strengthen inclusive practices
Assessment Validation	Validation every 5 years; peer review allowed	Risk-based validation; some require independent validators	Use structured, risk-based validation plans with qualified validators
Industry Engagement	Engagement is required but flexible in method	Systematic, documented engagement and use of feedback	Maintain records of industry consultation and its impact
Governance and Accountability	Governance was mentioned but not strongly emphasised	Strong emphasis on roles, accountability, and risk management	Clarify responsibilities, use risk registers, and review leadership actions
Flexibility in Delivery	Defined structure and hours of training	Flexibility in structure, pace, and mode of delivery	Justify and document how delivery meets learner and industry needs
Third-Party Arrangements	Written agreements and notifications are required	Clearer responsibilities for oversight and monitoring	Reassess agreements and implement monitoring systems
Use of Data and Feedback	Mentioned briefly for improvement	Multiple data sources must be used for continuous improvement	Collect, analyse, and act on feedback and performance data

Please note these tools have not been assessed for compliances against the Standards and are for workshop purposes only