

REDEFINING COMPLIANCE: KISM'S 2026 VISION

This year, the Kenya Institute of Supplies Management (KISM) is setting its sights higher than ever. With its 2026 vision, the Institute is not solely redefining professional standards as well as supporting a culture where candor and innovation are second nature. Lessons from 2025, both the advances and the setbacks, have formed a refreshingly pragmatic approach: one focused on closing persistent gaps, embracing digital tools, and engaging every stakeholder into a common journey.

Building on 2025 Achievements and Challenges

The past year, for all its progress (115 compliance checks, 116 disciplinary cases resolved, and nearly half of all workflows digitized), was free from its frustrations. Too many advisories went unanswered. Digital transformation, although promising, stalled at key junctures. And sector complaints reminded everyone of just how much work remains. It's these realities, not just the successes, that have become the real springboard for KISM's next chapter.

Strategic Objectives for 2026

What's ahead is less about ticking boxes and more about **creating genuine, lasting change**. KISM is **expanding its oversight**, determined to make compliance checks **more thorough and more frequent**. The team is **tightening up case resolution times**, not as a matter of optics, but **out of respect for those who depend on swift, fair outcomes**. There's a renewed **push to actually listen to as well as learn from stakeholders, making sure regulatory advisories get more than a cursory glance**. For example, in 2025, feedback from sector representatives about delays regarding response times led KISM to initiate monthly stakeholder forums, where regulatory concerns are directly addressed and clarified. The drive toward full digitization won't just improve processes; it will, for example, **allow disciplinary cases to be tracked and resolved through an online portal, allowing real-time status updates for all parties**. And crucially, **reducing repeat violations isn't just a metric; it's a promise to make the sector more trustworthy for everyone**.

All of these ambitions are grounded in KISM's multi-year strategic plan, but their real power lies in everyday execution, one improvement, one conversation, and one resolved case at a time.

Strategic Pillars and Risk Management

KISM's approach rests on **six simple but powerful ideas: smart use of technology, targeting oversight where it matters most, raising the bar for regulatory quality, heading off problems before they start, building real partnerships, and investing in people**. The risks, including cybersecurity threats, limited resources, as well as the ever-present challenge of change, are acknowledged, but not feared. To reduce these risks, KISM has **prioritized investment in solid cybersecurity infrastructure**, including periodic

security audits and employee training to counter digital threats. Resource limitations are addressed through planned allocation of funds and ongoing efficiency reviews, making sure that essential compliance functions remain fully supported. To manage resistance to change, the Institute conducts **proactive change management initiatives, such as stakeholder engagement workshops and continuous vocational development.** In this way, budgets are directed not only toward tools and training, but also toward systematic risk mitigation that supports the organization's sustained resilience.

Fostering a Culture of Compliance and Alliance

At its heart, this is about **building a culture where openness and accountability** continue just how things get done. KISM is leaning into data, using new analytics and real-time information to spot trouble before it spreads. Performance is reviewed often, not as a box-ticking exercise, but as a genuine check-in on what is working and what needs fixing. Regulatory checks, disciplinary matters, and audits no longer happen in silos; they are part of a single, coordinated effort to keep standards high. However, it has to be acknowledged that reliance on data and analytics can sometimes obscure underlying qualitative issues or lead to too much emphasis on measurable effects at the expense of more subtle challenges. Recognizing this limitation, KISM must balance digital tools with critical human discernment to ensure that the pursuit of compliance remains both complete and equitable.

Ahead

To summarize, KISM's 2026 agenda is not one of complacency, but rather of continued advancement and heightened expectations. By preserving rigorous standards, actively drawing lessons from past challenges, as well as ensuring the sector's preparedness for future developments, the Institute demonstrates its sustained devotion to excellence. As the road toward enhanced compliance and innovation progresses, the engagement of all stakeholders is going to be essential. Moving forward, KISM will emphasize collaborative partnerships and continuous improvement to ensure that its vision for the future is both realized and sustained.

The Directorate of Standards & Compliance