EQMS BUYER'S GUIDE

Best QMS Software for Life Sciences in 2026

How ZenQMS, MasterControl, Qualio, Veeva and Greenlight Guru stack up on usability, scalability, compliance and cost.

If you work in Quality at a life sciences company, you already know choosing a quality management system (QMS) is not a small decision. The right system can help your team stay audit-ready, manage training and documents more efficiently, and scale with less stress. The wrong one can add complexity, slow down adoption, and make an already demanding job even harder.

That's why we put together this guide.

Today's QMS market includes a mix of long-established systems and newer platforms taking a different approach. Some are known for enterprise depth, but can be harder to implement, maintain, and adapt over time. Others are designed to be easier to use, faster to validate, and more flexible as teams grow.

We compared five well-known QMS platforms for life sciences: ZenQMS, MasterControl, Qualio, Veeva, and Greenlight Guru. Our goal is not to tell you there is only one "right" option for every company. It's to help you understand which platform may be the best fit for your stage, your workflows, and your quality goals.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

Life sciences teams deserve a system that is priced predictably, easy to use, simple to validate, configurable to grow with them, and supported by real people who care about their success.

AT A GLANCE

PLATFORM	G2 RATING	REVIEWS	BEST FOR
ZenQMS	**4.7 / 5**	100	Best overall for life sciences teams
MasterControl	4.3 / 5	501	Complex, price-agnostic enterprise environments
Qualio	4.4 / 5	719	Small companies wanting an out-of-the-box solution
Veeva Vault	4.1 / 5	10	Companies already invested in the Veeva ecosystem
Greenlight Guru	4.5 / 5	401	Medical device companies

Veeva figures are for Veeva Vault QMS on G2.

01 ZenQMS

G2 4.7 / 5

BEST OVERALL QMS SOFTWARE FOR LIFE SCIENCES TEAMS

ZenQMS offers something many teams are still struggling to find: a system that is robust enough for regulated quality work, but simple enough that people actually want to use it.

Public reviews support that overall picture. ZenQMS is rated 4.7/5 on G2 across 100 reviews, the highest score of the five platforms in this comparison. G2's review summary consistently calls out ease of use, customer support, intuitive workflows, training, and implementation ease as standout strengths. That said, medical device companies with highly specialized requirements, especially around design control and related workflows, may want to compare a more device-specific platform closely.

ZenQMS was built for Quality teams that are tired of choosing between flexibility and ease of use. With ZenQMS, companies can start with the quality processes they need most, then expand over time with pricing designed to support them as they grow, without rigid templates or unnecessary complexity. That makes ZenQMS a strong fit for biotech, biopharma, CROs, and CDMOs of all sizes that need a system they can trust now *and* as they grow.

For many life sciences teams, that balance is the deciding factor. A QMS should help Quality work move forward, not become one more thing the team has to work around.

WHY TEAMS CHOOSE IT

- ✓ Easy to use for everyday quality work
- ✓ Flexible enough to grow without adding unnecessary complexity
- ✓ Admins can configure the system without heavy vendor dependence
- ✓ Transparent pricing designed for growing teams
- ✓ Validation package makes implementation and ongoing compliance more manageable
- ✓ Strong public feedback on support, training, and implementation ease

WHAT TO CONSIDER

- Companies with highly specialized medical device requirements may want to compare more device-specific options

02 MasterControl

G2 4.3 / 5

BEST FOR COMPLEX, PRICE-AGNOSTIC ENTERPRISE ENVIRONMENTS

MasterControl is one of the most established names in the category, and for some companies that alone will make it a serious contender. It has broad functionality, strong name recognition, and one of the larger public review bases in this group. On G2, MasterControl Quality Management System is rated 4.3/5 across 501

reviews. Review themes highlight document management, training, centralized quality processes, and integrations as key strengths.

MasterControl can be a tougher fit when it comes to complexity. G2's review summary points to navigation, usability, and setup friction as recurring concerns. For larger enterprises with mature quality operations and the internal resources to support a heavier platform, that may be a reasonable tradeoff. For leaner teams or large teams aiming to stay efficient, it can feel like more system than they need. G2 also lists an average implementation time of seven months, which is notably longer than other systems on this list.

MasterControl belongs on the shortlist for companies that want enterprise depth and can support the lift that often comes with it. It is a less natural fit for teams prioritizing speed, simplicity, and lower day-to-day overhead.

WHY TEAMS CHOOSE IT

- ✓ Broad functionality across core quality processes
- ✓ Strong enterprise recognition and a large public review base
- ✓ Good fit for organizations that can support a heavier platform and the required ongoing maintenance

WHAT TO CONSIDER

- – More complexity in setup, navigation, and day-to-day administration
- – Costs can add up quickly when access, modules, updates, and validation are priced separately
- – Longer implementation timelines than other options

03 Qualio

G2 4.4 / 5

BEST FOR SMALL COMPANIES LOOKING FOR AN OUT-OF-THE-BOX SOLUTION

Qualio is a good option for companies that want an approachable eQMS and want to get up and running quickly. It currently holds a 4.4/5 rating on G2 across 719 reviews, and G2's review summary highlights easy navigation, user-friendly training, and centralized document control as the main reasons users like it.

Qualio may be a good out-of-the-box fit for smaller teams, especially those moving away from paper, spreadsheets, or disconnected tools. Where buyers should look more carefully is long-term fit.

One consideration is flexibility. Public reviews are generally positive about ease of use, but some users also describe limitations in workflow automation, document handling, searchability, and more complex quality use cases. Teams with mature existing processes should pressure-test how well the system can replicate those workflows in practice, especially if they want room to configure beyond standard templates. The document editing experience is another area worth evaluating closely during a demo, since that is a recurring source of frustration for some users.

Pricing is another area to look at closely. Qualio's model is structured around plans and user types, with additional seats available over time. That may work well for a smaller team today. But for companies expecting growth, user-based pricing can create friction as headcount rises and more employees need access for training, approvals, document review, and quality processes. The issue is not just forecasting cost; it's the reality that adding users can mean going back for more budget more often than teams want.

WHY TEAMS CHOOSE IT

- ✓ Approachable and relatively easy to get up and running
- ✓ Strong public feedback on navigation, training, and document control
- ✓ Good out-of-the-box fit for smaller, simpler teams

WHAT TO CONSIDER

- – Flexibility may become a concern as workflows and documentation grow more complex
- – Products such as design control show development priorities focused on medical device, which may not benefit other industries
- – User-based pricing creates friction and frequent budget approvals as you scale
- – Worth pressure-testing for long-term fit if broader adoption is likely

04 Veeva Vault

G2 4.1 / 5

BEST FOR COMPANIES ALREADY INVESTED IN THE VEEVA ECOSYSTEM

Veeva belongs on this list because it is a major name in life sciences software and can make sense for teams that have invested heavily in the broader Veeva ecosystem and prioritize vendor consolidation.

One thing worth noting up front is that Veeva's quality footprint on G2 is spread across multiple products. Veeva Vault QMS is rated 4.1/5 across 10 reviews, while Veeva Vault QualityDocs is rated 4.5/5 across 14 reviews. Across both pages, review themes point to strengths in document management, core quality processes, and integration with other Veeva products.

The tradeoff is that Veeva is harder to recommend as the default choice for every life sciences team. Where buyers should look more carefully is how easy the system will be to use, manage, and adapt as requirements change. Public reviews suggest that Veeva can become confusing when functionality overlaps with other tools, and some users call out search and document visibility issues. Other feedback points to a system that may require more setup, more administration, and more technical support depending on how the organization wants quality processes to work day to day.

That is why this decision should go beyond platform alignment alone. Teams should look closely at how easily users can move through connected quality processes, how much effort the system will take to administer, and whether the experience will support broad adoption across the organization.

For some companies, Veeva will be a strong fit. For others, a QMS that feels more straightforward, more connected across workflows, and easier for everyday users to adopt may be the better long-term choice.

WHY TEAMS CHOOSE IT

- ✓ Familiar option for teams already working heavily within Veeva
- ✓ Strong fit when vendor consolidation is a priority
- ✓ Positive review themes around document management and integration with other Veeva tools

WHAT TO CONSIDER

- – Public reviews mention search, visibility, and overlap confusion in some cases
- – May require more setup, administration, training, and outside support than some teams want
- – Cost can be a concern for smaller companies, and long implementations can become expensive for larger ones

05 Greenlight Guru

G2 4.5 / 5

BEST FOR MEDICAL DEVICE COMPANIES

Greenlight Guru is a strong option for medical device companies. On G2, Greenlight Guru Quality Management System is rated 4.5/5 across 401 reviews, with users consistently praising ease of use, customer support, intuitive workflows, and implementation experience.

For device teams, Greenlight Guru's heavy focus on this industry can be a real advantage. Its specific tools for Design History Files, medtech clinical trial support, and more may speak directly to the needs of medical device quality teams. At the same time, some recent reviews mention search limitations, limited analytics, inflexible quality events in some cases, and pricing concerns for some teams.

Greenlight Guru is a credible shortlist option for medical device companies, especially those that want a more purpose-built environment. But for a broader life sciences audience, including biotech, pharma, CROs, and CDMOs, it is a narrower fit than some of the other platforms in this comparison.

WHY TEAMS CHOOSE IT

- ✓ Strong fit for medical device teams
- ✓ Positive public feedback on ease of use, support, and implementation experience
- ✓ Purpose-built feel for device-focused quality workflows

WHAT TO CONSIDER

- – Narrower fit for broader life sciences teams
- – Public reviews mention search limitations and limited analytics in some cases
- – Modular, per-user pricing may look manageable up front but can rise as headcount and needs grow

Choosing the Right QMS Software for Your Organization

There is no single QMS that is right for every life sciences company. But there is a big difference between a platform that looks good in a demo and one that actually helps your team work with less friction, more control, and more confidence.

FAQ

What actually matters when comparing eQMS software?

A long checklist usually does not make this decision easier. The practical questions are simpler:

Will people actually use the system? Will validation and implementation be manageable? Will pricing still make sense when your team grows? And will the system keep working as your processes become more complex? That is where the differences between platforms tend to show up.

What is the best QMS software for life sciences?

The best QMS software is one that fits the unique quality needs of your organization, so the answer may be different for every team. That said, we often hear ZenQMS offers one of the best overall balances of usability, validation readiness, scalability, and cost structure for many life sciences companies. ZenQMS offers transparent pricing designed to support organizations as their teams and quality needs evolve. It also has the highest current G2 rating among the five platforms compared here at 4.7/5.

Why does pricing structure matter so much in eQMS software?

Because compliance gets harder when access gets expensive. If a pricing model makes it costly to add users or expand workflows, growth can turn into a budgeting problem. *Always* ask how future organizational changes may impact cost.

KEEP COMPARING

Pressure-test your shortlist with the rest of this guide.

Use the Cost Calculator →

Read the Quality Management Research Report →

Watch the 3-Minute ZenQMS Preview →

that's ZEN