

Fact sheet – Specifying accreditation in Regulation



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In many economies, Regulators may be national, state, provincial, or even municipal in their scope of responsibility. Regulators may be public authorities or represent private sector specifiers. Many regulatory authorities are already using accreditation effectively to support their regulatory and policy objectives. However, there are some that do not possess sufficient information, which could lead to the incorrect application or specification of accreditation requirements.

The following text sets out examples of how to specify accredited services for external conformity assessment bodies (CBs) that are certification bodies (management systems, products or persons) or verification bodies, covered by the IAF MLA. All four paragraphs are needed to ensure that a party requesting external certification/ verification has met the International Standard and IAF requirements for competence and are providing reliable certificates.

The text can be provided to Regulators and specifiers to assist them in their drafting of Regulation or specification.

- “1. The certification body shall be accredited in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17021-1:– *Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems (for management systems certification)* or ISO/IEC 17065 – *Conformity assessment – Requirement for bodies certifying products, processes and services*, or ISO/IEC 17024 – *Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons (for persons certification)*, or ISO 14065 for Greenhouse gases – *Requirements for greenhouse gas validation and verification bodies for use in accreditation or other forms of recognition*.
2. The certification body's scope of accreditation to ISO/IEC 17021-1, ISO/IEC 17065, ISO 14065 or ISO/IEC 17024 shall encompass the area that is required for certification.
3. The accreditation of a conformity assessment body shall be issued by an accreditation body (AB), operating in accordance with ISO/IEC 17011 – *General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies and signatory to the respective IAF Arrangement*.
4. Additional requirements can be laid down by the Regulator. The accreditation body shall evaluate compliance with these additional requirements.”

The first paragraph stipulates that the certification body be accredited to ISO/IEC 17021-1, ISO/IEC 17065, ISO 14065 or ISO/IEC 17024, while the second paragraph requires that the area in which certificates are issued be listed on the certification body's scope of accreditation. If this requirement is not met, the certification body could claim that it is ISO/IEC 17021-1, ISO/IEC 17065, ISO 14065 or ISO/IEC 17024 compliant even though the CB/VB is not actually accredited for the requested standards.

The third stipulates that the Accreditation Body (AB) be an IAF MLA signatory. Without this paragraph, the CB could be accredited by an AB that has inadequate or misleading credentials. There are ABs that claim to be in compliance with ISO/IEC 17011. Holding IAF MLA signatory status indicates that the AB has been periodically peer-evaluated against the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011 and additional IAF requirements.

Public Sector Assurance



Public Sector Assurance (www.publicsectorassurance.org) has been developed by the leading global quality infrastructure organisations to illustrate the value of accredited conformity assessment, where Government officials and Regulators are able to access case studies from around the world in key policy areas demonstrating how different tools are able to deliver results.

The site also contains links to independent research where conformity assessment is, and can be, used for policy areas such as economic development, healthcare, environmental protection, energy, food safety, construction, crime and security.



Construction



Crime - security



Economic development



Efficient delivery of public services



Energy



Environmental protection



Food safety



Health - safety



Healthcare



Products-services



Trade

www.iaf.nu



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