IASCB-POL-001

Accreditation Requirements for Management System Certification Bodies

This policy describes the baseline requirements used by IASCB when assessing bodies that provide audit and certification of management systems.

Owner	Status	Review
IASCB Governance	Public policy	Annual or as required

Purpose

To provide a consistent, impartial and transparent basis for assessing certification bodies operating management-system certification schemes.

Applicable requirements

Assessments are conducted against ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 and any applicable sector or scheme-specific requirements identified in the applicant's scope.

Assessment principles

IASCB evaluates competence, impartiality, consistency, confidentiality, resources, audit processes, certification decisions, complaints, appeals and management-system controls.

Scope decisions

Accreditation is granted only for the activities and standards included in the formal scope. A body must not represent an activity as accredited when it falls outside that scope.

Ongoing responsibility

Accredited bodies must maintain their competence, notify IASCB of relevant changes and cooperate with surveillance, reassessment and special assessments.

6. Application review and planning

Before accepting an application, IASCB shall confirm legal identity, requested scope, applicable conformity-assessment standard, available competence and scheme conditions. The assessment programme shall define document review, office assessment, witnessing, interviews, sampling and technical review appropriate to risk.

7. Nonconformities and decisions

Findings shall be based on objective evidence and linked to an applicable requirement. The certification body shall analyse cause, implement correction and corrective action, and provide evidence within the specified timescale. The accreditation decision shall consider the complete evidence package and be independently authorised.

8. Records and management review

Records shall make applications, personnel competence, audit plans, reports, reviews, decisions, certificates, surveillance, complaints, appeals and changes traceable. The body shall review performance, impartiality, competence, feedback and improvement actions at planned intervals.