

CERTIFICATION TRANSITION NOTIFICATION

BY JOHN NDALAMO

Transition from ISO 14001:2004 to ISO 14001:2015

The International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the ISO Committee on Conformity Assessment (CASCO) have agreed to a three year transition period from the publication date of ISO 14001:2015. IAF Resolution 2014-11 was passed by the IAF General Assembly in Vancouver on 17 October 2014 endorsing a 3 year transition period to ISO 14001:2015. This means that all ISO 14001:2004 certificates will not be valid after three years from the publication of ISO 14001:2015. This standard is likely to be published in September 2015. Certification Bodies are to ensure that the expiry date of certification to ISO 14001:2004 issued during the transition period correspond to the end of the three year transition period.

What exactly has changed in ISO 14001:2015?

The revised ISO 14001 introduces significant changes and is based on Annex SL of the ISO directives, a high-level structure (HLS), which standardises sub-clause titles, core text, common terms and core definitions to enhance compatibility and alignment with other ISO management system standards. An overview of changes made in ISO 14001:2015 is highlighted below:

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT – A new requirement to understand the organisation's context has been incorporated to identify and leverage opportunities for the benefit of both the organisation and the environment. This is in view of an increased prominence of environmental management within the organisation's strategic planning processes. Particular focus is on issues or changing circumstances related to the needs and expectations of

interested parties (including regulatory requirements) and local, regional or global environmental conditions that can affect, or be affected by, the organisation. Once identified as a priority, actions to mitigate adverse risk or exploit beneficial opportunities are integrated in the operational planning of the environmental management system.

LEADERSHIP – To ensure the success of the system, a new clause has been added that assigns specific responsibilities for those in leadership roles to promote environmental management within the organisation.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT – The expectation on organisations has been expanded to commit to proactive initiatives to protect the environment from harm and degradation, consistent with the context of the organisation. The revised text does not define 'protect the environment' but it notes that it can include prevention of pollution, sustainable resource use, climate change mitigation and adaptation, protection of biodiversity and ecosystems, etc.

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE – There is a shift in emphasis with regard to continual improvement, from improving the management system to improving environmental performance. Consistent with the organisation's policy commitments the organisation would, as applicable, reduce emissions, effluents and waste to levels set by the organisation.

LIFECYCLE THINKING – In addition to the current requirement to manage environmental aspects associated with procured goods and service, organisations will need to extend their control and influence to the environmental impacts associated with product use and end-of-life treatment or disposal. This does not imply a requirement to do a life cycle assessment.





COMMUNICATION – The development of a communications strategy with equal emphasis on external and internal communications has been added. This includes a requirement on communicating consistent and reliable information, also establishing mechanisms for persons working under the organisation's control to make suggestions on improving the environmental management system. The decision to communicate externally is retained by the organisation but the decision needs to take into account information reporting required by regulatory agencies and the expectations of other interested parties.

DOCUMENTATION – Reflecting the evolution of computer and cloud based systems for running management systems, the revision incorporates the term 'documented information', instead of 'documents' and 'records'. To align with ISO 9001, the organisation will retain the flexibility to determine when 'procedures' are needed to ensure effective process control.

Therefore:

Organisations currently using ISO 14001:2004 are therefore recommended to take the following actions:

- Identify organisational gaps which need to be addressed to meet new Requirements and develop an implementation plan;
- Provide appropriate training and awareness for all parties that have an impact on the effectiveness of the organisation and update the existing environmental management system (EMS) to meet the revised requirements and provide verification of effectiveness;
- Liaise with their Certification Body for transition arrangements.

Certification Bodies will be required to take the following actions:

- Train auditors and verify the result to ensure the relevant level of competence is demonstrated;
- Communicate with existing clients and share guidance on the transition process and arrangements for transition;
- Plan the timing of audit and certification activities for the revised standard;
- Consider the stated transition period and current certification period and plan the timing of certification decisions for upgrading certification documents;

- Encourage current users of ISO 14001:2004 and new users to implement ISO 14001:2015 at an early stage and arrange audit schedules for existing client organisations.

Transition from ISO/IEC 17021:2011 to ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015

ISO/IEC 17021:2011 was subject to systematic review and revision, and It incorporates relatively few new requirements for third-party audit and certification of management systems. Resolution 2014-12 was passed by the IAF General Assembly in Vancouver on 15 October 2014 endorsing a 2 year transition period for the implementation of ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015. This standard is likely to be published by the end June 2015. Certification Bodies accredited at the time of publication will be in conformance with ISO/IEC 17021:2011. Transition to ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 may require translations, changes to processes, contracts, committees and other arrangements which will take time.

Certification Bodies will be required to analyse and understand the requirements of ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 and commence identification of differences between the standard and their current management system immediately. SANAS reminds affected CBs that, upon publication of ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 and in order to facilitate a smooth transition, accredited certification bodies will be required to submit a transition action plan detailing, as a minimum, the following:

- All specific actions to be taken to implement the changes;
- Timeframes for completion of such actions;
- The persons responsible for the actions;
- Process in place to monitor progress and completion of the actions.

The action plan will need to demonstrate an impact analysis of the new standard on the system and communication of changes to interested parties, as appropriate.

OTHER DOCUMENTS OF INTEREST

SANAS hereby reminds all accredited product certification bodies for GlobalG.A.P IFA V4 to take note of 'GlobalG.A.P Technical News for Certification Bodies, issue 01/2015, date 01/06/2015'. This document includes transitional guidelines to IFA V5 and can be accessed at: http://www.globalgap.org/export/sites/default/.content/.galleries/Documents_for_Mailings/150602_Technical_News_CB_2015_01_en.pdf
All other IAF documents are available at: <http://www.iaf.nu/>



NEWLY PUBLISHED SANAS DOCUMENTS

BY YOLANDA VINNICOMBE

TG 39-01

Transition Guidelines for Personnel Certifiers to ISO/IEC 17024:2012 Certification Bodies - Certification Bodies, **(Date published: 2015-04-30)**

TG 44-01

Transition Guidelines for Product Certifiers to ISO/IEC 17065:2012 Certification Bodies - Certification Bodies, **(Date published: 2015-04-30)**

TG 45-01

Transition Guidelines for Management System Certification

Bodies to ISO/IEC TS 17021-2 and ISO/IEC TS 17021-3- Certification Bodies, **(Date published: 2015-06-05)**

TG 46-01

Transitional Guidelines for Food Safety Management Systems Certification Bodies to ISO/TS 22003:2013 - Certification Bodies, **(Date published: 2015-06-05)**

F 220-01

Witnessing of Activity: ISO/IEC 17024:2012 Certification of Persons - Certification Bodies, **(Date published: 2015-06-17)**

REVISED SANAS DOCUMENTS

BY YOLANDA VINNICOMBE

F 04-10

Recommendation Report - All programmes, **revised on 2015-05-05** *Amended Recommendations and added approval of managers for Inspection and Proficiency Testing*

P 41-02

Sampling for Assessment Purposes - All programmes, **revised on 2015-05-28**
Refer to the Amendment list in the document

P 04-15

Accreditation of laboratories, Proficiency testing scheme providers and Producers of Certified Reference Materials - Calibration, Testing, Medical, Blood Transfusion, Proficiency Testing Scheme Providers & Producers of Certified Reference Materials, **revised on 2015-05-28**
Refer to the Amendment list in the document

TR 16-02

Criteria for Laboratory Accreditation in the Field of Photometry, Radiometry and Fibre Optic Metrology - Calibration Laboratories, **revised on 2015-03-13**
Revised – refer to the document amendment record

F 178-02

Vertical Assessment: ISO/IEC 17024:2012 - Certification of Persons, **revised on 2015-04-30**
Revised to incorporate 2012 requirements

F 146-03

ISO/IEC 17021: 2011 Report on witnessing of a Certification Body - Certification Bodies, **revised on 2015-06-05**
Revised to the 2011 requirements

F 14CB-10

Application for Accreditation of Certification Bodies - Certification Bodies, **revised on 2015-06-05**
Revised to include updated certification scopes

F 162-06

Assessment Cycle Matrix - ISO/IEC 17021:2011 - Certification Bodies, **revised on 2015-06-05**
Revised to the 2011 requirements

F 133-02

Assessment Cycle Matrix - ISO/IEC 17024:2012 - Certification Bodies, **revised on 2015-06-17**
Revised to the 2012 requirements

P 17-05

Accreditation of Verification Laboratories - Verification Laboratories, **revised on 2015-05-28**
Refer to the Amendment list in the document

P 15-08

Accreditation of Inspection Bodies - Inspection Bodies, **revised on 2015-06-05**
Refer to the Amendment list in the document

F 179-12

Assessor Claim Form - All programme assessors, **revised on 2015-04-01**
Amounts revised for the 2014/15 financial year

P 14-26

SANAS Fees - All programmes, revised on 2015-04-01
Amounts **revised for the 2014/15 financial year**



OBSELETE SANAS DOCUMENTS

BY YOLANDA VINNICOMBE

F 135

Guide 65 Vertical Assessment, BRC – Certification, **revised on 2016-06-18** *BRC scope inactive*

NEWLY PUBLISHED / REVISED ILAC AND IAF DOCUMENTS

BY YOLANDA VINNICOMBE

Please access the relevant websites for these documents:

- ILAC Website: www.ilac.org
- IAF Website: www.iaf.nu

IAF MD 5:2015

Determination of Audit Time of Quality and Environments management Systems – Certification, **revised on 2015-06-09**
Application from 09 June 2016

This document is mandatory for the consistent application of the relevant clauses of ISO/IEC 17021-1 for audits of quality and

environmental management systems. It provides mandatory provisions and guidance for CABs to develop their own processes for determining the amount of time required for the auditing of clients of differing sizes and complexity over a broad spectrum of activities.

ILAC R7:05/2015

Rules for the use of the ILAC MRA Mark – General, **revised on 2015 05**

This document provides rules for the use of the ILAC MRA Mark

CONTACT INFORMATION

SANAS website: www.sanas.co.za | **Main Switchboard No:** +27 (0) 12 394-3760 | **General Fax No:** +27 (0) 12 394-0526 |
Physical Addresses: the dti Campus, Block G, Ground Floor | 77 Meintjies Street, Sunnyside, Pretoria | **SANAS Knowledge Transfer Centre:** 121 Muckleneuck Street Nieuw Muckleneuk | Pretoria | 0002 | Private Bag X23 | Sunnyside | Pretoria | 0132