August 5, 2023

TO: IAS – VALIDATION AND VERIFICATION BODIES (VVBs) AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES.

SUBJECT: Proposed Revisions to the Accreditation Criteria for Validation and Verification Bodies (VVBs), AC800-202310-R0 (MS/MN)

Hearing Information:
IAS Accreditation Committee
Wednesday, October 4, 2023
8:30 am (Pacific Time Zone)
WebEx Meeting – Refer to IAS website for details.

Dear Madam or Sir:

Proposed Revisions to the Accreditation Criteria for Validation and Verification Bodies (VVBs), (AC800) has been placed on the agenda for committee consideration at the above-noted meeting.

Proposed changes include:

1. Provided editorial revisions throughout the document.
2. Line No. 42, 44, 45, 47 and 55: Added the Edition Year.
3. Line No. 50: Added MD25 to the list of reference documents.
4. Line No. 80 to 82: Revise the minimum required project to cover each type of validation/verification and sector.
5. Line No. 85 to 86: Add additional requirements to ISO/IEC 17029 which include ISO 14065 and scheme requirements.
6. Line No. 95 to 99: Add additional requirements for regulatory and voluntary program requirements and schemes.
7. Line 103 to 105: Added ISO 14065 and other program schemes.
8. Line No. 117: Added additional required information for relevant regulatory and voluntary requirements.
9. Line No. 134: Changed “certified client’s” to “Validated/Verified client’s”.

You are cordially invited to submit written comments, or to attend the WebEx committee hearing and present verbal comments. Written comments will be forwarded to the committee, prior to the hearing, if received by September 4, 2023. For your
convenience, a comment form is provided. The link can be found on the Accreditation
Committee meeting page on the IAS website, www.iasonline.org. Comments must be
emailed to iasinfo@iasonline.org.

Parties interested in proposed revised criteria may deliver written communications and
submissions regarding such proposed criteria to IAS within approximately 30 days of
posting of the public notice on the IAS website. The committee shall be informed of all
pertinent written communications received by IAS. Any relevant communication and
changes to a criteria arising from the written communication/submission shall be posted
to the IAS website prior to the meeting.

Participants at the accreditation committee meetings shall have the opportunity to speak
on the proposed criteria to provide information to the committee. Committee meetings
are generally held by electronic means. Participants are responsible to ensure access to
appropriate computer equipment, software, and internet connectivity to ensure effective
participation during the meeting.

Your cooperation is requested in forwarding to IAS, as noted above, all material directed
to the committee. Prior to the hearing, parties interested in the deliberations of the
committee should refrain from communicating, whether in writing or verbally, with
committee members regarding agenda items. The committee reserves the right to
refuse communications that do not comply with this request.

If you have any questions, please contact IAS at 562-364-8201. You may also
reach us by e-mail at iasinfo@iasonline.org.

Yours very truly,

[Signature]

Raj Nathan
President

Enclosures: Proposed Revised AC800

cc: Accreditation Committee
PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE ACCREDITATION CRITERIA FOR VALIDATION AND VERIFICATION BODIES (VVBs)

AC800

Proposed October 4, 2023

PREFACE

The attached accreditation criteria have been proposed to provide all interested parties with an opportunity to comment. These criteria may be further revised as needed. The criteria are developed and adopted following public hearings conducted by the International Accreditation Service, Inc. (IAS), Accreditation Committee and are effective on the first of the month following approval by the Accreditation Committee, but no earlier than 30 days following the approval.
PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE ACCREDITATION CRITERIA FOR VALIDATION AND VERIFICATION BODIES (VVBs)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. **Scope:** These criteria set forth the requirements for obtaining and maintaining International Accreditation Service, Inc. (IAS), Validation and Verification Bodies (VVBs) accreditation. The criteria supplement the IAS Rules of Procedure for Validation and Verification Bodies.

1.2. **Normative and Reference Documents:** Publications listed below refer to current editions (unless otherwise stated).

1.2.1. ISO/IEC 17029:2019, Conformity assessment — General principles and requirements for validation and verification bodies;

1.2.2. ISO 14065:2020, General principles and requirements for bodies validating and verifying environmental information;

1.2.3. ISO 14066:2011, Greenhouse gases — Competence requirements for greenhouse gas validation teams and verification teams.


1.2.5. ISO 14064-2:2019, Greenhouse gases — Part 2: Specification with guidance at the project level for quantification, monitoring and reporting of greenhouse gas emission reductions or removal enhancements.


1.2.7. IAF MD 4:2023 IAF Mandatory Document for the Use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for Auditing/Assessment Purposes

1.2.8. IAF MD 6:2023 Application of ISO 14065:2013

1.2.9. IAF MD 12:2023 Accreditation Assessment of Conformity Assessment Bodies with Activities in Multiple Countries


1.2.11. IAF MD 20:2016 Generic Competence for AB Assessors: Application to ISO/IEC 17011

1.2.12. IAF MD 25:2023 Criteria for Evaluation of Conformity Assessment Schemes

1.2.13. IAF Resolutions related to accreditation bodies and transitions as available on the IAF website.

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1. Applicable definitions found in ISO/IEC Standard 17000 series apply.

2.2. APAC: Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation

2.3. CAB: Conformity Assessment Body

2.4. GHG: Greenhouse Gases

2.5. IAF: International Accreditation Forum

2.6. Remote Assessments: Accreditation Body’s assessment of the physical location or virtual site of a CAB office or CAB’s client, using electronic means

2.7. VVB: Validation and Verification Body applicant or accredited by IAS

2.8. Validation: Confirmation of a claim, through the provision of objective evidence, that the requirements for a specific intended future use or application have been fulfilled.

2.9. Verification: Confirmation of a claim, through the provision of objective evidence, that specified requirements have been fulfilled.

2.10. Virtual site: An online environment allowing persons to execute processes, e.g., in a cloud environment.

2.11. Witness Assessments: Validation/Verification activities/audits that are observed by an IAS assessor

3. ELIGIBILITY

3.1. Accreditation services are available to all validation and verification bodies that meet the following requirements:

3.1.1. Have at least a minimum of one certified project completed in the requested scope of accreditation. Have at least a minimum of one completed validation/verification engagement for each type of validation/verification program and sector group in the requested scope of accreditation.

3.1.2. Have completed at least one Internal Audit and one Management Review.

3.1.3. Have a complete and demonstrable management system based on the requirements of ISO/IEC 17029:2019, and other relevant additional requirements. (e.g. for GHG validation/verification ISO 14065:2020, and applicable program/scheme requirements)

3.1.4. Demonstrate compliance with all applicable IAF Mandatory Documents (MD).

3.1.5. Have competent validation/verification teams in the requested scope of accreditation.

3.1.6. All office and witness assessments are conducted onsite unless agreed by IAS for remote or virtual assessments or mandated by IAF under special circumstances.

3.2. All documents submitted to IAS must be in English.
3.3. The VVB or any part of the same legal entity or any entity under the organizational control of the VVB cannot offer or provide consultancy.

3.4. The IAS Accreditation cycle for VVBs is 4 years (see Annex A).

3.5. The VVB shall identify relevant regulatory and/or voluntary program requirements applicable to its validation/verification operations, and comply with such regulatory and/or voluntary program requirements as applicable.

3.4.3.6. If VVB is seeking accreditation based on a voluntary scheme(s), then such scheme(s) should be validated in accordance with IAF MD25, as acceptable.

4. REQUIRED BASIC INFORMATION

Applicant VVBs must demonstrate compliance with the following requirements:

4.1 ISO/IEC Standard 17029 and level 4 standards, and other relevant additional requirements. (e.g. for GHG validation/verification ISO 14065:2020, and applicable program/scheme requirements) as applicable.


4.3 IAF relevant Resolutions related to accreditation bodies and transitions as available on the IAF website.


4.5 ISO/IEC Standard 17000, Conformity assessment – Vocabulary and general principles.

4.6 Relevant IAS policy documents.

4.7 IAS Policy on the Restricted Use of IAS Endorsement by Accredited Organizations.

4.8 IAS Policy on the use of the ILAC/IAF/IAS Combined Marks.

4.8.4.9 All relevant regulatory and/or voluntary program requirements, as applicable.

5 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (AS APPLICABLE)

5.1 All requested scopes shall be in the format used in the IAS VVB application form.

5.1.1 Applicant VVBs shall undergo onsite office and witness assessments, as described in IAS Rules of Procedure for VVBs and Section 3.4 of this criteria document.

5.1.2 Identification of the program for the particular validation/verification that needs to be operated.

5.1.3 Program description shall specify definitions, principles, rules, processes and requirements for validation/verification process steps, as well as for the competence of validators/verifiers for a specific sector.
5.1.4 Programs can be legal frameworks, international, regional or national standards, global initiatives, sector applications as well as individual agreements with clients of the validation/verification body.

5.1.5 Information and disclosure regarding current or past accreditation status or sanctions brought against the VVB shall be requested during the application.

5.1.6 Formal application is through the iasinfo@iasonline.org

5.1.7 IAS will only accept certified Validated/Verified client’s project reports provided directly by the VVBs.

5.2 Accredited VVBs – Transitions to IAS requirements, international standards or IAF MDs: The following are required when transitioning:

5.2.1 A transition plan to be provided by the MSCB VVB to IAS

5.2.2 Qualified and experienced Component personnel of VVB

5.2.3 Audit records if any, relating to the transition or a witness assessment as needed

6 LINKS TO ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

6.1 International Accreditation Forum (IAF) – www.iaf.nu

6.2 International Organization for Standardization (ISO) – www.iso.org

6.3 Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) - https://www.apac-accreditation.org/

These criteria were previously issued December 2021
## Annex A
### IAS ACCREDITATION CYCLE

![IAS Accreditation Cycle Diagram]

**1st Cycle**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Example of VVB Assessment Schedule</th>
<th>Initial Accreditation Decision date to next Surveillance Assessment 1 date (12 months apart)</th>
<th>Surveillance 1 Assessment Date to Surveillance 2 Assessment Date (12 months apart)</th>
<th>Surveillance 2 Assessment Date to Surveillance 3 Assessment Date (12 months apart)</th>
<th>Surveillance 3 assessment date to Reassesssment 1 date (12 months apart)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>June 1, 2021 to June 1, 2022</td>
<td>June 1, 2022 to June 1, 2023</td>
<td>June 1, 2023 to June 1, 2024</td>
<td>June 1, 2024 to June 1, 2025</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2nd Cycle**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Example of VVB Assessment Schedule</th>
<th>Reassessment 1 date to next Surveillance Assessment 1 date (12 months apart)</th>
<th>Surveillance 1 Assessment Date to Surveillance 2 Assessment Date (12 months apart)</th>
<th>Surveillance 2 Assessment Date to Surveillance 3 Assessment Date (12 months apart)</th>
<th>Surveillance 3 assessment date to Reassesssment 2 date (12 months apart)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>June 1, 2025 to June 1, 2026</td>
<td>June 1, 2026 to June 1, 2027</td>
<td>June 1, 2027 to June 1, 2028</td>
<td>June 1, 2028 to June 1, 2029</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>