



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 through out 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.

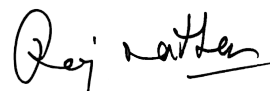
Parties interested in proposed revised criteria may deliver written communications and submissions regarding such proposed criteria to IAS within approximately 30 days of posting of the public notice on the IAS website. The committee shall be informed of all pertinent written communications received 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,



Raj Nathan
President

Enclosures: Proposed Revised AC800

cc: Accreditation Committee



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17

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.

18 **PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE ACCREDITATION CRITERIA FOR VALIDATION AND**
19 **VERIFICATION BODIES (VVBs)**

20
21 **1. INTRODUCTION**

22 1.1. **Scope:** These criteria set forth the requirements for obtaining and maintaining International
23 Accreditation Service, Inc. (IAS), Validation and Verification Bodies (VVBs) accreditation. The
24 criteria supplement the IAS Rules of Procedure for Validation and Verification Bodies.

25
26 1.2. **Normative and Reference Documents:** Publications listed below refer to current editions
27 (unless otherwise stated).

28 1.2.1. ISO/IEC 17029:2019, Conformity assessment — General principles and requirements for
29 validation and verification bodies;

30 1.2.2. ISO 14065:2020, General principles and requirements for bodies validating and verifying
31 environmental information;

32 1.2.3. ISO 14066:2011, Greenhouse gases — Competence requirements for greenhouse gas
33 validation teams and verification teams.

34 1.2.4. ISO 14064-1:2018, Greenhouse gases — Part 1: Specification with guidance at the
35 organization level for quantification and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions and
36 removals.

37 1.2.5. ISO 14064-2:2019, Greenhouse gases — Part 2: Specification with guidance at the project
38 level for quantification, monitoring and reporting of greenhouse gas emission reductions or
39 removal enhancements

40 1.2.6. ISO 14064-3:2019, Greenhouse gases — Part 3: Specification with guidance for the
41 verification and validation of greenhouse gas statements.

42 1.2.7. IAF MD 4:~~2023~~2018 IAF Mandatory Document for the Use of Information and
43 Communication Technology (ICT) for Auditing/Assessment Purposes

44 1.2.8. IAF MD 6:~~2023~~2014 Application of ISO 14065:2013

45 1.2.9. IAF MD 12:~~2023~~2016 Accreditation Assessment of Conformity Assessment Bodies with
46 Activities in Multiple Countries

47 1.2.10. IAF MD14:~~2023~~2014 Application of ISO/IEC 17011 in Greenhouse Gas Validation and
48 Verification (ISO 14065:2013)

49 1.2.11. IAF MD 20:2016 Generic Competence for AB Assessors: Application to ISO/IEC 17011

50 4.2.11.1.2.12. IAF MD25:2023 Criteria for Evaluation of Conformity Assessment Schemes

51 4.2.12.1.2.13. IAF Resolutions related to accreditation bodies and transitions as available on
52 the IAF website.

53 4.2.13.1.2.14. IAF ID 3:2011 Informative Document for Management of Extraordinary Events or
54 Circumstances Affecting ABs, CABs and Certified Organizations

55 4.2.14.1.2.15. ISO/IEC ~~Standard~~ 17000:2020, Conformity assessment – Vocabulary and
56 general principles.

58 2. DEFINITIONS

- 59 2.1. Applicable definitions found in ISO/IEC ~~Standard~~ 17000 series apply.
- 60 2.2. **APAC**: Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation
- 61 2.3. **CAB**: Conformity Assessment Body
- 62 2.4. **GHG**: Greenhouse Gases
- 63 2.5. **IAF**: International Accreditation Forum
- 64 2.6. **Remote Assessments**: Accreditation Body's assessment of the physical location or virtual site
65 of a CAB office or CAB's client, using electronic means
- 66 2.7. **VVB**: Validation and Verification Body applicant or accredited by IAS
- 67 2.8. **Validation**: Confirmation of a claim, through the provision of objective evidence, that the
68 requirements for a specific intended future use or application have been fulfilled.
- 69 2.9. **Verification**: Confirmation of a claim, through the provision of objective evidence, that
70 specified requirements have been fulfilled.
- 71 2.10. **Virtual site**: An online environment allowing persons to execute processes, e.g., in a cloud
72 environment.
- 73 2.11. **Witness Assessments**: Validation/Verification activities/audits that are observed by an IAS
74 assessor

76 3. ELIGIBILITY

- 77 3.1. Accreditation services are available to all validation and verification bodies that meet the
78 following requirements:
- 79 3.1.1. Have at least a minimum of one certified project completed in the requested scope of
80 accreditation. Have at least a minimum of one completed validation/verification
81 engagement for each type of validation / verification program and sector group in the
82 requested scope of accreditation.
- 83 3.1.2. Have completed at least one Internal Audit and one Management Review.
- 84 3.1.3. Have a complete and demonstrable management system based on the requirements of
85 ISO/IEC 17029:2019. and other relevant additional requirements. (e.g for GHG
86 validation/verification ISO 14065:2020, and applicable program / scheme requirements)
- 87 3.1.4. Demonstrate compliance with all applicable IAF Mandatory Documents (MD).
- 88 3.1.5. Have competent validation/verification teams in the requested scope of accreditation.
- 89 3.1.6. All office and witness assessments are conducted onsite unless agreed by IAS for
90 remote or virtual assessments or mandated by IAF under special circumstances.
- 91 3.2. All documents submitted to IAS must be in English.

92 3.3. The VVB or any part of the same legal entity or any entity under the organizational control of
93 the VVB cannot offer or provide consultancy.

94 3.4. The IAS Accreditation cycle for VVBs is 4 years (see Annex A).

95 3.5. The VVB shall identify relevant regulatory and/or voluntary program requirements applicable to
96 its validation/verification operations, and comply with such regulatory and/or voluntary program
97 requirements as applicable.

98 3.4.3.6. If VVB is seeking accreditation based on a voluntary scheme(s), then such scheme(s)
99 should be validated in accordance with IAF MD25, as acceptable.

101 4. REQUIRED BASIC INFORMATION

102 Applicant VVBs must demonstrate compliance with the following requirements:

103 4.1 ISO/IEC ~~Standard~~ 17029 and level 4 standards, and other relevant additional requirements.
104 (e.g for GHG validation/verification ISO 14065:2020, and applicable program / scheme
105 requirements) as applicable.

106 4.2 All relevant IAF Mandatory Documents (MD). https://iaf.nu/en/iaf-documents/?cat_id=7
107 http://www.iaf.nu/articles/Mandatory_Documents_/38

108 4.3 IAF relevant Resolutions related to accreditation bodies and transitions as available on the IAF
109 website.

110 4.4 All relevant IAF Informative Documents (ID).
111 (http://www.iaf.nu/articles/Informative_Documents_/32 <https://iaf.nu/en/iaf->
112 [documents/?cat_id=10](https://iaf.nu/en/iaf-documents/?cat_id=10))

113 4.5 ISO/IEC Standard 17000, Conformity assessment – Vocabulary and general principles.

114 4.6 Relevant IAS policy documents.

115 4.7 IAS Policy on the Restricted Use of IAS Endorsement by Accredited Organizations.

116 4.8 IAS Policy on the use of the ILAC/IAF/IAS Combined Marks.

117 4.8.4.9 All relevant regulatory and/or voluntary program requirements, as applicable.

119 5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (AS APPLICABLE)

120 5.1 All requested scopes shall be in the format used in the IAS VVB application form.

121 5.1.1 Applicant VVBs shall undergo onsite office and witness assessments, as described in
122 IAS Rules of Procedure for VVBs and Section 3.4 of this criteria document.

123 5.1.2 Identification of the program for the particular validation/verification that needs to be
124 operated.

125 5.1.3 Program description shall specify definitions, principles, rules, processes and
126 requirements for validation/verification process steps, as well as for the competence of
127 validators/verifiers for a specific sector.

- 128 5.1.4 Programs can be legal frameworks, international, regional or national standards, global
129 initiatives, sector applications as well as individual agreements with clients of the
130 validation/verification body.
- 131 5.1.5 Information and disclosure regarding current or past accreditation status or sanctions
132 brought against the VVB shall be requested during the application :
- 133 5.1.6 Formal application is through the iasinfo@iasonline.org
- 134 5.1.7 IAS will only accept ~~certified~~ [Validated/Verified](#) client's project reports provided directly
135 by the VVBs.
- 136 5.2 Accredited VVBs – Transitions to IAS requirements, international standards or IAF MDs: The
137 following are required when transitioning:
- 138 5.2.1 A transition plan to be provided by the ~~MSCB~~ [VVB](#) to IAS
- 139 5.2.2 ~~Qualified and experienced~~ [Competent](#) personnel [of VVB](#)
- 140 5.2.3 Audit records if any, relating to the transition or a witness assessment as needed

141

142 6 LINKS TO ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

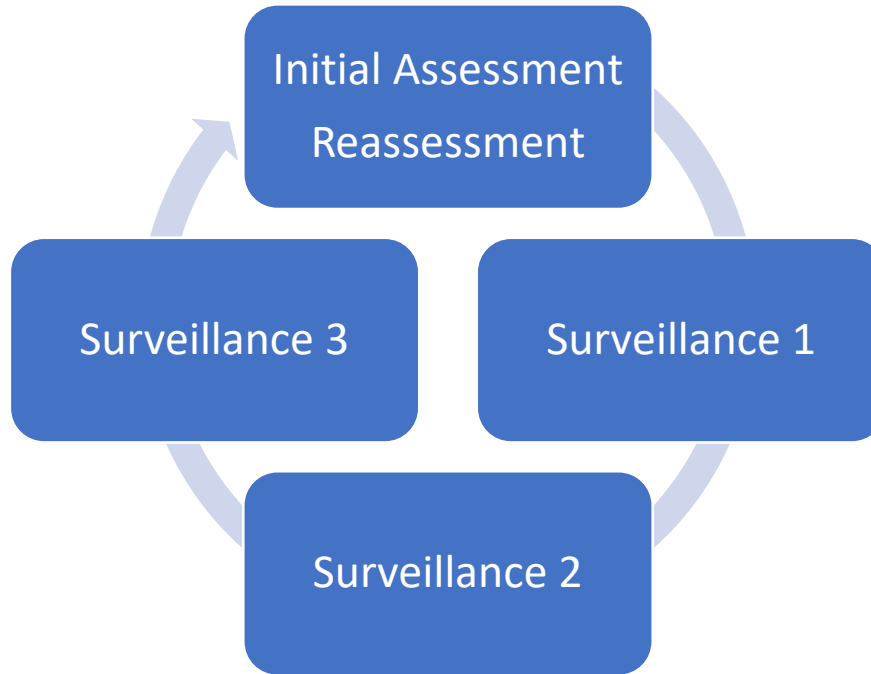
- 143 6.1 International Accreditation Forum (IAF) – www.iaf.nu
- 144 6.2 International Organization for Standardization (ISO) – www.iso.org
- 145 6.3 Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) - <https://www.apac-accreditation.org/>

146

147 *[These criteria were previously issued December 2021](#)*

148
149
150

Annex A IAS ACCREDITATION CYCLE



151
152 1st Cycle

Example of VVB Assessment Schedule	Initial Accreditation Decision date to next Surveillance Assessment 1 date (12 months apart) June 1, 2021 to June 1, 2022	Surveillance 1 Assessment Date to Surveillance 2 Assessment Date (12 months apart) June 1, 2022 to June 1, 2023	Surveillance 2 Assessment date to Surveillance 3 Assessment date (12 months apart) June 1, 2023 to June 1, 2024	Surveillance 3 assessment date to Reassessment 1 date (12 months apart) June 1, 2024 to June 1, 2025
---	---	---	---	--

153
154 2nd Cycle

Example of VVB Assessment Schedule	Reassessment 1 date to next Surveillance Assessment 1 date (12 months apart) June 1, 2025 to June 1, 2026	Surveillance 1 Assessment Date to Surveillance 2 Assessment Date (12 months apart) June 1, 2026 to June 1, 2027	Surveillance 2 Assessment date to Surveillance 3 Assessment date (12 months apart) June 1, 2027 to June 1, 2028	Surveillance 3 assessment date to Reassessment 2 date (12 months apart) June 1, 2028 to June 1, 2029
---	---	---	---	--

155
156