



May 6, 2024

TO: IAS – PRODUCT CERTIFICATION AGENCIES AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES.

SUBJECT: Proposed Revisions to the Accreditation Criteria for Product Certification Agencies, AC370-202406-R0 (KE/MA)

Hearing Information:

IAS Accreditation Committee

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

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 Product Certification Agencies, (AC370) has been placed on the agenda for committee consideration at the above-noted meeting.

Proposed changes include:

1. Line No. 59: Section 1.2.9: Added reference to MD7.
2. Line No. 214: Annex A: Added PEFC to the list of schemes.

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 June 3, 2024. 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,

International Accreditation Service

IAS Management

Enclosures: Proposed Revised AC370

cc: Accreditation Committee

ACCREDITATION CRITERIA FOR PRODUCT CERTIFICATION AGENCIES

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 **Scope:** These criteria set forth the requirements for obtaining and maintaining International Accreditation Service, Inc. (IAS), Product Certification Agency accreditation. These criteria supplement the IAS Rules of Procedure for Product Certification Agency Accreditation.

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

1.2.1 ISO/IEC Standard 17065, Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services.

1.2.2 ISO/IEC Standard 17067, Conformity assessment – Fundamentals of product certification and guidelines for product certification schemes.

1.2.3 ISO/IEC Standard 17020, Conformity assessment – Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection.

1.2.4 ISO/IEC Standard 17021-1, Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing auditing and certification of management systems – Part 1: Requirements.

1.2.5 ISO/IEC Standard 17025, General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories.

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

1.2.7 ISO/IEC Standard 17011, Conformity assessment – Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies.

1.2.8 IAF MD 4: IAD Mandatory Document for the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for Auditing/Assessment Purposes.

~~1.2.8~~1.2.9 [IAF MD 7:2023 Mandatory Document for the Harmonization of Sanctions and Dealing with Fraudulent Behaviour](#)

~~1.2.9~~1.2.10 IAF MD 12: Accreditation Assessment of Conformity Assessment Bodies with Activities in Multiple Countries.

~~1.2.10~~1.2.11 IAF MD 25: Criteria for Evaluation of Conformity Assessment Schemes

~~1.2.11~~1.2.12 IAF ML 2: General Principles on the Use of the IAF MLA Mark.

~~1.2.12~~1.2.13 APAC TEC4-001 Guidance on Description of Scope of Accreditation – Product Ver 1.0 (20190101)

61 4.2.13 1.2.14 APAC TEC4-002 Guidance on Application of ISO-IEC 17065 Organic
62 Certification Ver 1.0 (20190101)

63
64 **2 DEFINITIONS**

- 65 2.1 Applicable definitions of ISO/IEC Standard 17000 series apply.
66 2.2 Pilot project: A certification project processed by the Certification Agency to provide objective
67 evidence of their ability to meet requirements of ISO/IEC 17065 and this accreditation criteria.
68

69 **3 ELIGIBILITY**

70 Accreditation services are available to a third-party certification agency that:

- 71 3.1 Certifies products, processes or services,
72 3.2 Operates, or maintains a subcontract agreement with a testing laboratory and inspection
73 agency, that meet the requirements of ISO/IEC Standard 17065, Sections 6.2.2, External
74 resources (outsourcing),
75 3.3 If the certification agency requires accreditation prior to issuing a certification, the certification
76 agency shall show compliance to ISO/IEC 17065 by means of a pilot project during the
77 assessment.
78

79 **4 REQUIRED BASIC INFORMATION**

- 80 4.1 Certification agencies shall demonstrate compliance with the following requirements:
81 4.1.1 ISO/IEC Standard 17065, Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies certifying
82 products, processes and services;
83 4.1.2 IAS Rules of Procedure for Product Certification Agency Accreditation;
84 4.1.3 Scheme requirements under which the certification is granted.
85
86 4.2 Certification programs for processes and services shall have requirements for determining
87 continued compliance, that include assessment of the management system and the actual
88 process or service, at least once per year.
89

90 **5 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (AS APPLICABLE)**

- 91 5.1 When the certification system used as the basis for a certification activity requires surveillance
92 at the point of manufacturing or assembly, the certification agency shall have requirements for
93 every manufacturing or assembly plant producing certified products be visited to perform

94 surveillance activities for certified products. In the absence of a generally recognized minimum
95 surveillance frequency, the certification agency shall require that each manufacturing or
96 assembly location authorized to produce the certified product be subject to at least one
97 surveillance activity each calendar year.

98 **Note:**

- 99 1. Regardless of the surveillance techniques used, the content of the surveillance and
100 what is reviewed during the surveillance will be the same. Surveillance techniques,
101 include, but are not limited to:
- 102 - Announced (planned) onsite audits
 - 103 - Remote audits
 - 104 - Unannounced visits
 - 105 - A combination of the above
- 106 2. It is recommended that onsite surveillance be performed as the primary technique.
107 Use of remote surveillance should be clearly justified.
- 108 3. As a minimum, items to consider during surveillance:
- 109 - Material traceability
 - 110 - Inspection and quality control test and measurement equipment calibration
 - 111 - Manufacturer's management system, where required by the scheme
 - 112 - Assessment of production process

113
114 5.2 Inspection agencies and testing laboratories used as part of the certification process shall meet
115 one of the following criteria:

116 5.2.1 Accreditation by IAS, or by another signatory to the International Laboratory
117 Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA); or

118 5.2.2 Comply with applicable requirements of ISO/IEC 17020 and/or ISO/IEC 17025,
119 determined through assessment of the inspection agency and/or testing laboratory by
120 qualified certification agency personnel.

121 5.2.2.1 In addition to the requirements given in ISO/IEC 17020 and/or ISO/IEC 17025,
122 evidence of compliance shall include the qualifications of certification agency
123 personnel conducting the evaluation, and a system for determining continued
124 compliance which includes periodic assessments, review of reports, and corrective
125 action reports.

126 5.2.2.2 Product certification agencies shall have procedures and retain records related to
127 monitoring the performance of testing and inspection agencies, and of compliance of
128 reports to all requirements of the certification scheme.
129

130 5.3 Product certification agencies shall comply with regulatory requirements of Authority Having
131 Jurisdiction (AHJ) or other regulatory entities, including specific compliance requirements for
132 qualification, licensing, etc., of personnel and operation of product certification body.
133

134 5.4 **Witnessing Inspection Activities:** When the certification scheme used as the basis for a
135 certification activity requires the onsite evaluation of the production process or management
136 system, IAS will periodically witness actual onsite inspections by each accredited certification
137 agency. The selection of location and scope for witness activity shall be made by IAS, in
138 consultation with the certification agency, based on various factors – risk, complexity, personnel
139 changes, technology utilized, etc. Where possible, the full scope of accreditation will be
140 reviewed over a full accreditation cycle.
141

142 5.5 **Witness Testing:** All witness testing activities conducted at a manufacturer's facility shall be
143 witnessed by technically competent certification agency staff who are trained not only in the test
144 being witnessed, but in the appropriate sections of ISO/IEC Standard 17025. If the certification
145 scheme to which the product is to be certified contains specific requirements or limitations
146 pertaining to witness testing, the requirements of the certification scheme shall also apply.
147 Appropriate measures shall be taken for long-term testing or sample collection, where constant
148 witnessing is not feasible, to ensure tampering of the sample or testing equipment does not
149 take place.
150

151 5.6 **Use of Manufacturer's Data:** If the certification scheme to which the product is to be certified
152 contains specific requirements or limitations pertaining to the use of manufacturer's data, the
153 requirements of the certification scheme shall also apply.
154

155 If a certification agency plans to use test data generated and submitted by a manufacturer who
156 is not part of witness testing, the certification agency shall have a program in place to ensure
157 validity and independence of the test data. The certification agency shall consider one or more

- 158 of the following for such a program, and shall have justification for those it chooses not to
159 utilize:
- 160 5.6.1 Auditing, including unannounced random visits to the manufacturer's laboratory, to
161 ensure applicable requirements of ISO/IEC Standard 17025 are satisfied;
 - 162 5.6.2 Performing random duplicate analyses;
 - 163 5.6.3 Having the manufacturer's laboratory participate in proficiency testing programs, where
164 available, for applicable test method;
 - 165 5.6.4 Technical review of the raw test data rather than acceptance of just the result.

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167 5.7 Conformity Assessment Schemes:

168 5.7.1 All conformity assessment schemes shall comply with IAF MD25 unless exempt.

169 Exempt schemes are:

170 5.7.1.1 Schemes included or invoked by legislation/regulation, and/or

171 5.7.1.2 Developed by national, regional or international standardization bodies.

172 5.7.2 Annex A lists a few of the schemes that are accepted by IAS. These are considered
173 third-party schemes. Annex A may be revised periodically as an editorial revision to
174 these criteria.

175

176 5.8 Non-Accredited Product Certification where the CAB is accredited for the same scope (IAF
177 Resolution 2018-13):

178 Resolution 2018-13 states: Non-Accredited Product Certification where the CAB is
179 accredited for the same scope - The General Assembly acting on the recommendation of
180 the Technical Committee resolved that IAF Accreditation Body members shall have
181 legally enforceable arrangements with their accredited CABs for product certification that
182 prevents the CAB from issuing non-accredited product certification in scopes for which
183 they are accredited.

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185 Note: If there is an exception to the above, the CAB must justify the exception to IAS, and if accepted
186 by IAS, the certification is still considered accredited.

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188 **6 LINKS TO ADDITIONAL REFERENCES**

189 6.1 Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation – <http://www.apac-accreditation.org>

190 6.2 IAS – www.iasonline.org

191 6.3 International Accreditation Forum – www.iaf.nu

192 6.4 International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation – www.ilac.org

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194 *These criteria were previously issued May 2007, April 2008, October 2009, October 2011, June 2013, February 2014, February*
195 *2015, April 2017, September 2018, editorially revised January 2019 and December 2020; and previously issued July 2021.*

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DRAFT

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Annex A

Product Certification Schemes

- A.1 CARB ATCM – <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/compwood-publications>
- A.2 EPA Energy Star – <https://www.energystar.gov/>
- A.3 EPA Formaldehyde – <https://www.epa.gov/formaldehyde>
- A.4 EPA WaterSense – <https://www3.epa.gov/watersense/>
- A.5 GLOBALG.A.P. – https://www.globalgap.org/uk_en/
- A.6 BRC Global Standards (BRCGS) – <https://www.brcgs.com/>
- A.7 International Featured Standards (IFS) – <https://www.ifs-certification.com/index.php/en/>
- A.8 PEFC, Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification
- <https://www.pefc.org/standards-implementation/standards-and-guides>