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Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems —

Part 2: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of environmental management systems

Évaluation de la conformité — Exigences pour les organismes procédant à l'audit et à la certification des systèmes de management —

Partie 2: Exigences de compétence pour l'audit et la certification des systèmes de management environnemental

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work. In the field of conformity assessment, ISO and IEC develop joint ISO/IEC documents under the management of the ISO Committee on Conformity assessment (ISO/CASCO).

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO and IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

ISO/IEC 17021-2 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 207, *Environmental management*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Environmental auditing and related environmental investigations*, and the ISO Committee on conformity assessment (CASCO). It was circulated for voting to the national bodies of both ISO and IEC, and was approved by both organizations.

This first edition of ISO/IEC 17021-2 cancels and replaces ISO/IEC/TS 17021-2:2012, which has been technically revised.

The following major changes have been made compared with ISO/IEC/TS 17021-2:2012:

— addition of the new requirements of ISO 14001:2015 which required additional competence to audit them;

— adaptation of the competence requirements to reflect the greater focus in ISO 14001:2015 on expected outcomes;

— clarification of the difference between sustainable development and sustainability;

— inclusion of competence criteria for the auditor to understand the context of the organization;

— inclusion of competence to audit the reliability of client communications about their EMS.

A list of all parts in the ISO/IEC 17021 series can be found on the ISO website.

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Introduction

This document complements ISO/IEC 17021-1. In particular, it clarifies the requirements for the competence of personnel involved in the certification process set out in ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015, Annex A.

Certification bodies have a responsibility to interested parties, including their clients and the customers of the organizations whose management systems are certified, to ensure that only those auditors who demonstrate the relevant competence are allowed to conduct environmental management system (EMS) audits. All EMS auditors should possess the generic competencies described in ISO/IEC 17021-1 as well as the specific EMS knowledge described in this document.

Certification bodies will need to identify the specific audit team competence needed for the scope of each EMS audit. The selection of an EMS audit team will depend upon various factors, including the EMS technical area, the context of an organization, its environmental aspects and the site where these aspects occur.

The competence requirements for other personnel involved in certification activities are also described.

In this document, the following verbal forms are used:

— “shall” indicates a requirement;

— “should” indicates a recommendation;

— “may” indicates a permission;

— “can” indicates a possibility or a capability.

Further details can be found in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

For the purposes of research, users are encouraged to share their views on this document and their priorities for changes to future editions. Click on the link below to take part in the online survey:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D5PK2NV

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Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems —

Part 2: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of environmental management systems

1 Scope

This document specifies additional competence requirements for personnel involved in the audit and certification process for environmental management systems (EMS) and complements the existing requirements of ISO/IEC 17021-1.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015, *Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems — Part 1: Requirements*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO/IEC 17021-1 and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at http://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at http://www.electropedia.org/

3.1
EMS technical area
environmental management system technical area
area characterized by commonalities of processes relevant to an environmental management system and its intended results

4 Generic competence requirements

The certification body shall define the competence requirements for each relevant EMS technical area and for each function in the certification activity. The certification body shall take into account all the requirements specified in Clauses 5, 6 and 7 that are relevant for the EMS technical areas, as defined by the certification body. See Tables A.1 and A.2 for a summary of the competence requirements for personnel involved in specific certification functions.

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