

Factsheet – Specifying accreditation in Regulation



In many economies, regulators may be national, state, provincial, or even municipal in their scope. They may be public authorities or represent private sector specifiers. Many regulators are already using accreditation effectively to support their regulatory and policy objectives. However, there are some that do not possess sufficient information, which can lead to the incorrect application or specification of accreditation requirements.

The following text sets out how to specify accredited services for external certification bodies (management

systems, products or persons), covered by the IAF MLA. All four paragraphs are needed to ensure that a party requesting external certification has met the International Standard and IAF requirements for competence and are providing reliable certificates.

This text can be provided to Regulators and specifiers to assist them in their drafting of Regulation or specification.

- “1. The certification body shall be accredited in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17021 – *Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems* (for management systems certification) or ISO/IEC 17065 – *Conformity assessment – Requirement for bodies certifying products, processes and services* or ISO/IEC 17024 – *Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons* (for persons certification).
2. The certification body’s scope of accreditation to ISO/IEC 17021, ISO/IEC 17065 or ISO/IEC 17024 shall encompass the area that is required for certification.
3. The accreditation of a certification body shall be issued by an accreditation body (AB), operating in accordance with ISO/IEC 17011, *General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies* and signatory to the respective IAF Arrangement.
4. Additional requirements can be laid down by the regulator. The accreditation body shall evaluate compliance with these additional requirements.”

The first paragraph stipulates that the certification body be accredited to ISO/IEC 17021, ISO/IEC 17065 or ISO/IEC 17024, while the second paragraph requires that the area in which certificates are issued be listed on the certification body’s scope of accreditation. If this requirement is not met, the certification body could claim that it is ISO/IEC 17021, ISO/IEC 17065 or ISO/IEC 17024 compliant even though the CB is not actually accredited for the requested standards.

The third stipulates that the Accreditation Body (AB) be an IAF MLA signatory. Without this paragraph, the CB could be accredited by an AB that has inadequate or misleading credentials. There are ABs that claim to be in compliance with ISO/IEC 17011. Holding IAF MLA signatory status indicates that the AB has been periodically peer-evaluated against the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011 and additional IAF requirements.



**Certified Once
Accepted Everywhere**