IAS Management System Certification Bodies

IAS TRANSITION POLICY
ON
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM ACCREDITATION to ISO/IEC STANDARD 17021-1:2015

This policy applies to all IAS-accredited and applicant management system certification bodies (MSCBs) and covers the necessary steps during the transition process from ISO/IEC Standard 17021 (2011) to **ISO/IEC Standard 17021-1:2015, Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems — Part 1: Requirements.** This latest standard was published on June 15, 2015.

IAS-accredited and applicant MSCBs are required to comply with the requirements of this policy commencing September 1, 2015. This policy is based on the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) Resolution 2014-12 – Transition Period for ISO/IEC 17021-1 which states:

"The General Assembly, acting on the recommendation of the Technical Committee, resolved to endorse ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015, as a normative document. The General Assembly further agreed that the transition period for the implementation of ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 will be two years from the date of publication."

This IAS Transition Policy is **effective from September 1, 2015**. After this date, all IAS-accredited and applicant MSCBs will be assessed against ISO/IEC Standard 17021-1:2015. During the transition period, IAS assessors will identify areas of noncompliance against the new standard and cite them as Corrective Action Requests (CARs). Concerns or Comments may also be cited against the new standard during document review or during on-site assessments. To achieve or maintain accreditation, applicant and IAS-accredited MSCBs are required to resolve findings based on ISO/IEC Standard17021-1:2015 no later than June 15, 2017.

Availability of Accreditation Documents
IAS-accredited and applicant MSCBs are required to obtain a copy of the new international standard which may be purchased from the relevant standard development organization. The standard may also be purchased through the International Code Council Bookstore:
http://shop.iccsafe.org/catalogsearch/result/?order=relevance&dir=desc&q=iso+17065.

Assessment, Training and Documentation Notes
   a) Findings (CARs and Concerns) raised against the 2011 standard requirements during assessments conducted during the transition period require a response to IAS within 30 days of the assessment. Findings (CARs and Concerns) raised against ISO/IEC Standard 17021-1:2015 must be resolved by June 15, 2017 [refer to d)].

b) All accredited and applicant MSCBs should provide IAS with revised management system documentation addressing all new requirements of ISO/IEC Standard 17021-1:2015 and return a completed ISO/IEC Standard 17021-1:2015 assessment checklist, prior to their next assessment. All accredited and applicant organizations will be provided with this checklist prior to assessment or upon request.

c) After June 15, 2017, all management system documentation must demonstrate compliance with the new 2015 standard in order to maintain IAS accreditation.

d) MSCBs that have not demonstrated full compliance with ISO/IEC Standard 17021-1:2015 by June 15, 2017, are subject to suspension and removal of their accreditation certificate from the IAS website.

e) All current IAS accreditation certificates based on ISO/IEC Standard 17021: 2011 will expire on June 15, 2017.

f) MSCBs demonstrating full compliance with the requirements of ISO/IEC Standard 17021-1:2015 will be issued a certificate listing accreditation to the new standard.

g) All IAS MSCB assessors will be trained on the new standard prior to conducting assessments.

h) IAS will be scheduling training events and on-line webinars on the new standard. Please consult the IAS website regularly for training dates and venues.

Accreditation Criteria
The current IAS Accreditation Criteria for Management System Certification Bodies (MSCBs) (AC477) will be revised to meet the requirements of the new standard.

IAS Personnel Training
To facilitate the transition process, IAS staff and assessors will receive training on the requirements of ISO/IEC Standard 17021-1:2015. Training will also include guidance on the IAS Transition Plan and a detailed overview of ISO/IEC Standard 17021-1:2015 so that assessors will be able to answer your questions. Assessor training will also include any new or revised administrative tools (e.g., forms, checklists, procedures, etc.) as required.

Stakeholder and Client Engagement
All on-going communication and updates critical to the successful conclusion of the transition to ISO/IEC Standard 17021-1:2015 by accredited and applicant MSCBs will be posted on the IAS website: www.iasonline.org.

Contact Information
Further information can be obtained by contacting Mohan Sabaratnam, MSCB Program Manager, at msabaratnam@iasonline.org.