



## **NABCB Policy on Transition to ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015**

### **Introduction:**

NABCB operates its accreditation schemes based on international / other standards approved by NABCB Board. The certification bodies are expected to comply with relevant ISO/IEC documents / standards / IAF mandatory documents that have been adopted by the Board as its criteria.

At present, all the accreditation programmes for management systems certification are based on ISO/IEC 17021:2011

ISO/IEC 17021:2011 has been revised as ISO 17021-1:2015 and published on 15 June 2015. It incorporates some new requirements for third-party audit and certification of management systems.

### **IAF Resolution:**

IAF Resolution 2014-12 was passed by the IAF General Assembly in Vancouver on 15 October 2014 endorsing a **2 year transition** period for the implementation of ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 from the date of publication (15 June 2015).

### **Policy:**

All IAF Accreditation Body Members are required to adopt ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 as part of the accreditation criteria for their accreditation programmes for management systems certification bodies under the IAF MLA. IAF Accreditation Body Members are required to evaluate the operations and planning of accredited bodies to ensure that full implementation will be in place before **14 June 2017**.

This policy shall apply to all accredited and applicant bodies seeking accreditation by NABCB for the provision of any management system certification.

This policy shall remain current until **14 June 2017**.

### **Implementation:**

Keeping in view the processing times for new applications, NABCB Board has approved the following policy for transition;

1. All CBs accredited/applicants to ISO/IEC 17021:2011 for any scheme shall submit a plan for transition by **31 Jan 2016**. The plan shall clearly indicate the date by which the CB would transit to ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015.
2. NABCB would be ready to carry out assessments as per ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 wef **16 Dec 2015**.

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3. All applications on or after **14 June 2016** would be accepted as per ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015.
4. All applicants whose applications (as per ISO/IEC 17021:2011) are pending as on **14 June 2016** shall have to demonstrate conformity to ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 before grant of accreditation is considered. This demonstration of conformity may be through a special assessment, if needed.
5. All assessments, wef **15 June 2016**, of accredited/applicant CBs, shall be against ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015. This date would give a full year during which time all CBs would undergo surveillance. However, any deviation from ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 shall be given as Observations and not as non-conformities until **14 Dec 2016**.
6. All concerns against ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 raised during the assessments, which have not been addressed by the CB, would be reviewed and classified as critical / major / minor NCs and would be communicated to the CBs for necessary action by **15 Dec 2016**.
7. Any verification of compliance or corrective actions to NCs after **15 Dec 2016** may involve an onsite visit.
8. Failure to comply with ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 by **14 June 2017** shall result in withdrawal of accreditation.