



NABCB Policy on Transition to ISO/IEC TS 17021-3:2013

Introduction:

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

At present, the accreditation of QMS certification bodies is based on ISO/IEC 17021:2011.

ISO has published ISO/IEC TS 17021-3:2013 Conformity assessment -- Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems -- Part 3: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of quality management systems on **1 May 2013**. This Technical Specification (TS) has been developed by ISO Technical Committee ISO/TC 176 and CASCO using the framework of ISO/IEC 17021:2011 and includes specific requirements regarding the competence of personnel involved in the third-party certification auditing of Quality Management Systems.

Reference: IAF Resolution 2013-12 – Endorsing a Normative Document. Resolution 2013-12 was passed by the IAF 27th General Assembly in Seoul on 25 October 2013 endorsing a 2 year introduction period for ISO/IEC TS 17021-3:2013 (mandatory) from the date of publication (1 May 2013).

Policy:

All IAF Accreditation Body Members are required to adopt ISO/IEC TS 17021-3:2013 as part of the accreditation criteria for their accreditation programmes for ISO 9001 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 1 May 2015.

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

This policy shall remain current until 1 May 2015.

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 QMS scheme shall submit a plan for transition by 31 Mar 2014. The plan shall clearly indicate the date by which the CB would transit to ISO/IEC TS 17021-3:2013.

*National Accreditation Board
for Certification Bodies*

2. NABCB would be ready to carry out assessments against ISO/IEC TS 17021-3:2013 with immediate effect.
3. All applicants whose applications are pending as on 1 May 2014 shall have to demonstrate conformity to ISO/IEC TS 17021-3:2013, in addition to ISO/IEC 17021:2011 before a recommendation is made to the Accreditation Committee for grant of accreditation. This demonstration of conformity may be through a special assessment and would depend on the level of compliance to ISO/IEC TS 17021-3:2013 demonstrated during the normal assessment process.
4. All applications on or after 1 May 2014 would be accepted as per ISO/IEC 17021-2011 read with ISO/IEC TS 17021-3:2013.
5. **No accreditation without compliance to ISO/IEC TS 17021-3 would be granted after 1 May 2014.**
6. All assessments, wef 1 May 2014, of accredited/applicant CBs, shall be against ISO/IEC TS 17021-3:2013. This date would give a full year during which time all CBs would undergo surveillance. However, any deviation from ISO/IEC TS 17021-3:2013 shall be given as Concern and not as non-conformities until 31 October 2014.
7. All concerns against ISO/IEC TS 17021-3:2013 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 **1 November 2014.**
8. Any verification of corrective actions to NCs after 1st November 2014 may involve an onsite visit.
9. If satisfactory evidence of conformance to ISO/IEC TS 17021-3:2013 is not available in the records by 1st May 2015, then accreditation of the CB shall be suspended for a maximum of 6 months. Failure to comply with ISO/IEC TS 17021-3:2013 by the end of this period would result in withdrawal of accreditation.