

from: ACCAB . info.accab@gmail.com
to: central@iso.org
date: Wed, Nov 9, 2011 at 12:23 PM
subject: CLARIFICATIONS REGARDING CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT - ACCREDITATION
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ACCAB/008

Date 09 Nov 2011

To,

International Organization for Standardization,
ISO Central Secretariat,
1, ch. de la Voie-Creuse,
CP 56, CH-1211 Geneva-20,
Switzerland

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SUB:- CLARIFICATIONS REGARDING CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT - ACCREDITATION

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are pleased to introduce ourselves as an international, independent, impartial, non-governmental accreditation body. The Accreditation Commission for Conformity Assessment Bodies (ACCAB) is a trading name for Accreditation Commission For conformity Assessment Bodies Private Limited a company limited by shares and established in terms of Companies Act, 1956, Republic of India.

ACCAB operates in accordance with the requirements, criteria, rules and regulations as laid down in the following documents:

- The requirements of the international standard ISO/IEC 17011, General requirements for bodies providing assessments and accreditation of conformity assessment bodies
- The requirements and other benchmarks as stipulated in the Publicly Available Documents (PAD) published by various international bodies and ACCAB
- Legally established objects as per Memorandum & Articles of Association with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India.

The Board of Director has overall authority and responsibilities for policies and procedures for the operations of ACCAB. The Board delegates to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ACCAB, the responsibility to implement the ACCAB policies and procedures. Accreditation Approval Committees make decisions concerning the granting and continuation of accreditation. An independent Impartiality Committee representing the broad range of stakeholders reviews and adjudicates on possible conflicts of interest. The authority vested in ACCAB is that assigned to them by the Conformity Assessment Bodies and other Organization it accredits and recognizes by virtue of these applicant and accredited bodies pledging support for the mission and objectives of ACCAB and ensuring that their actions are according to that policy. The ACCAB started operating from September 2010. Please check our website www.accab.org for further details on us.

We would be highly obliged if you could give certain clarifications to the following points/issues which we came across in the initial stages of establishing our accreditation services.

1. What is an “Accreditation” as per the International Organization for Standardization ?
2. Is it mandatory that the authority of an accreditation body is derived from Government (please refer ISO 17011 clause 3.2 NOTE) ?
3. Does ISO give any formal recognition to the accreditation bodies ?
4. Does ISO have any policy regarding any independent private sector legal entity establishing and operating an accreditation body ?
5. Has ISO given any formal recognition to the International Accreditation Forum and also to the accreditation bodies who are members of IAF ?
6. Is it mandatory/ necessary for an accreditation body to be a member of International Accreditation Forum ?

Thanks and awaiting your early response

For Accreditation Commission for Conformity Assessment Bodies Pvt Ltd

Commander Rajiv Kubal (Retd)
Divisional Head



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from: MBINFO MBINFO@iso.org
to: "info.accab@gmail.com" <info.accab@gmail.com>
date: Wed, Nov 9, 2011 at 8:36 PM
subject: RE: CLARIFICATIONS REGARDING CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT - ACCREDITATION
mailed-by: iso.org
signed-by: iso.org

Please read the information provided through the following links:

http://www.iso.org/iso/iso_catalogue/management_and_leadership_standards/certification.htm

http://www.iso.org/iso/iso_catalogue/management_and_leadership_standards/certification/iso_does_not_carry_out_certification.htm

For further information, please contact your national ISO member for further information and assistance:

http://www.iso.org/iso/about/iso_members.htm

Yours sincerely,

Joseph Martinez

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Certification

Certification is not a requirement of any of ISO's management system standards. This section provides a basic understanding of what certification and related terms mean.

Certification, registration and accreditation

In the context of ISO 9001:2000 (and ISO 9001:2008) or ISO 14001:2004, “**certification**” refers to the issuing of written assurance (the certificate) by an independent external body that it has audited a management system and verified that it conforms to the requirements specified in the standard.

“**Registration**” means that the auditing body then records the certification in its client register. So, the organization's management system has been both certified and registered.

Therefore, in the ISO 9001:2000 (and ISO 9001:2008) or ISO 14001:2004 context, the difference between the two terms is not significant and both are acceptable for general use. “**Certification**” is the term most widely used worldwide, although **registration** is **often preferred in North America**, and the two are used interchangeably.

On the contrary, using “**accreditation**” as an interchangeable alternative for certification or registration is a mistake, because it **means something different**.

In the ISO 9001:2000 (and ISO 9001:2008) or ISO 14001:2004 context, accreditation refers to the **formal recognition** by a specialized body – an accreditation body – **that a certification body is competent** to carry out ISO 9001:2000 (and ISO 9001:2008) or ISO 14001:2004 certification in specified business sectors.

In simple terms, accreditation is like certification of the certification body. Certificates issued by accredited certification bodies may be perceived on the market as having **increased credibility**.

- See [ISO/IEC 17000:2004, Conformity assessment - Vocabulary and general principles](#).



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ISO does not carry out certification

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ISO is responsible for developing, maintaining and publishing the ISO 9000 and ISO 14000 families of standards but **ISO does not itself audit or assess the management systems of organizations** to verify that they have been implemented in conformity with the requirements of the standards.

ISO does not issue ISO 9001:2000 (or ISO 9001:2008) or ISO 14001:2004 certificates.

The auditing and certification of management systems is carried out **independently of ISO** by more than 2500 certification bodies active around the world. ISO has no authority to control their activities. The ISO 9001:2000 (and ISO 9001:2008) and ISO 14001:2004 certificates issued by certification bodies are issued under their own responsibility and **not under ISO's name**.

ISO itself does not carry out assessments or audits to check that its standards are being implemented by users in conformity with the requirements of the standards. **Conformity assessment** – as this process is known – is a matter **between suppliers and their customers** in the private sector, and of regulatory bodies when ISO standards have been incorporated into public legislation.

In addition, there exist many testing laboratories and certification bodies which offer **independent (also known as "third party") conformity assessment services** to provide confirmation that products (including hardware, software and processed materials), services or systems measure up to ISO standards.

Such organizations may perform these services under a mandate to a regulatory authority, or as a commercial activity, the aim of which is to create confidence between suppliers and their clients.

In some countries, the national standards institutes that make up ISO's membership carry out conformity assessment, either on behalf of their respective governments, or as a business operation. **ISO itself has no authority to control conformity assessment activities**, whether these are business activities by its members, or by other organizations.

However, ISO's Committee on conformity assessment, [ISO/CASCO](#), develops [standards and guidelines](#) covering various aspects of **conformity assessment activities** and the organizations that perform them. The voluntary criteria contained in these standards and guides represent an **international consensus on good practice**. Their use contributes to the consistency of conformity assessment worldwide and so facilitates trade across borders.