

TRANSITION POLICY- ISO/IEC 17021-3: 2017

Transition to ISO/IEC 17021-3: 2017

SLAB accredited and applicant management system certification bodies are required to comply with the requirements of this policy commencing 15th of December 2017. The new ISO/IEC 17021-3: 2017 standard was published in March 2017 and will replace ISO/IEC 17021-3: 2013.

The International Accreditation Forum (IAF) at its 26th General Assembly passed a resolution (2012-11) endorsing a 2-year transition period for the implementation of all relevant newly published ISO/CASCO conformity assessment standards from the date of publication. For details, please refer to IAF website at http://www.iaf.nu/upFiles/Resolutions_IAF26_Approved.pdf. As the date of publication of ISO/IEC 17021-3 has not been specified on the standard, the IAF Technical Committee (TC) in the recent meeting held in April 2017, has agreed that the deadline for quality management system (QMS) certification bodies to conform to ISO/IEC 17021-3: 2017 will be 31st March 2019.

This means that all Management Systems Certification Bodies will need to have successfully transferred to the new standard within 2 years from the publication date.

As per the SLAB policy on transition, accreditation granted as per ISO/IEC 17021-3: 2013 would not be valid after 31st March 2019.

In addition, the following are also applicable for this transition.

1. SLAB is ready to carry out assessments against ISO/IEC 17021-3: 2017 after 25th January 2018.
2. SLAB does not accept applications against ISO/IEC 17021-3: 2013 after 25th January 2018.
3. All assessments of new applicants (pre-assessments/initial assessments) and SLAB accredited system certification bodies (surveillance assessments/re-assessments) will be conducted in accordance with ISO/IEC 17021-3: 2017 from 25th January 2018 onwards as per their assessment schedules.
4. System Certification Bodies whose applications were accepted as per ISO/IEC 17021-3: 2013 and pending as on 25th January 2018 will be granted accreditation as per ISO/IEC 17021-3: 2013 up to 31st March 2018.

Any Application pending on 31st March 2018 shall have to demonstrate compliance as per ISO/IEC 17021-3: 2013 to be accredited after 31st March 2018.

Accreditation will not be granted as per ISO/IEC 17021-3: 2013 after 31st March 2018.

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Title: Transition Policy- ISO/IEC 17021-3			Doc No: AC-RG(P)-12	
Issue No: 01	Date of Issue: 2017-12-14	Rev No: 00	Date of Rev:	Page: Page 1 of 2

5. System Certification Bodies granted accreditation as per ISO/IEC 17021-3: 2013 before 31st March 2018 shall undergo surveillance assessment to demonstrate their compliance to ISO/IEC 17021-3: 2017 as per their normal assessment schedules and complete the process of surveillance assessment on or before 25th February 2019. SLAB accredited System Certification Bodies shall be fully compliant with the requirements of the standard ISO/IEC 17021-3: 2017 by 30th March 2019.

6. Any exception to the above policy may be granted on a specific request from a System Certification Body. However, in line with IAF's Resolution, such a System Certification Body shall have to demonstrate compliance to ISO/IEC 17021-3: 2017 by 30th March 2019.

The accreditation of any System Certification Body which fails to demonstrate compliance to ISO/IEC 17021-3: 2017 by 30th March 2019 shall be placed under temporally suspension for a maximum of 03 months. Failure to comply with ISO/IEC 17021-3: 2017 by the end of this period would result in withdrawal of accreditation.

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Issue No: 01	Date of Issue: 2017-12-14	Rev No: 00	Date of Rev:	Page: Page 2 of 2