



**ACCREDITATION RULE 41**  
Issue Date: 2011/05/26  
Implementation Date: 2011/05/26  
New

**SUBJECT:** Transition to ISO/IEC 17021:2011 from ISO/IEC 17021:2006

**APPLIES TO:** ANAB-Accredited and Applicant Certification Bodies

**PREFACE**

This Accreditation Rule is to inform certification bodies (CBs) of ANAB requirements for transitioning accreditation to ISO/IEC 17021:2011 from ISO/IEC 17021:2006. It includes requirements for timing of the transition and sanctions to be applied to CBs that do not meet the requirements by the deadlines. ANAB determined the need for such requirements based on the unsatisfactory experience with the transition to ISO/IEC 17021:2006.

**ACCREDITATION RULE**

1. Requirement/Reference Documents (current versions)
  - 1.1. ISO/IEC 17021:2011, Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems
  - 1.2. MA 6000, ANAB Accreditation Manual, and applicable ANAB Accreditation Rules
  - 1.3. IAF ID 2:2011, IAF Informative Document for the Transition of Management System Accreditation to ISO/IEC 17021:2011 from ISO/IEC 17021:2006
2. Prerequisites
  - 2.1. A CB shall be accredited by ANAB as conforming to ISO/IEC 17021:2006 or be an applicant for accreditation.
3. Application Process
  - 3.1 ANAB will not accept applications for accreditation to ISO/IEC 17021:2006 after 2011/05/31.
  - 3.2. The application process outlined at <http://www.anab.org/certification-bodies/become-a-certification-body.aspx> must be completed via ANAB's Enterprise Quality Manager (EQM) database when the CB is ready to apply for ISO/IEC 17021:2011 accreditation and download the ISO/IEC 17021:2011 Requirement Matrix (CL 3002).
    - 3.2.1. There is no fee to apply for the transition.
  - 3.3. The CB shall submit a completed ISO/IEC 17021:2011 Requirement Matrix highlighting changes to its documented system.
    - 3.3.1. If the CB has not submitted the completed ISO/IEC 17021:2011 Requirement Matrix by 2011/10/31 (nine months into the 24-month application period), ANAB will reissue the CB's accreditation certificate with the expiration date 2013/01/31.
    - 3.3.2. If the CB determines that full implementation of specific clauses cannot be completed by 2013/02/01 (see IAF ID 2:2011, clause 5), the CB shall submit a separate application to ANAB by 2012/02/01 providing justification along with its plans for achieving full implementation.

#### 4. Transition Assessments

- 4.1. An ANAB accreditation assessor shall conduct a limited documentation review focusing on the changes made by the CB to conform with ISO/IEC 17021:2011.
  - 4.1.1. The CB shall be invoiced \$156.25 per hour for the document review.
- 4.2. After the documents are found acceptable, ANAB shall verify conformance to the requirements of ISO/IEC 17021:2011 during the next office assessment.
  - 4.2.1. If the CB has not been reassessed to ISO/IEC 17021:2011 prior to 2012/10/31, ANAB shall conduct a special assessment no later than 2013/01/15.
- 4.3. ANAB management staff is authorized by the ANAB Accreditation Council to make accreditation decisions (within the four-year accreditation period) based on satisfactory results of transition assessments and satisfactory correction and corrective action for any nonconformances. The CB's accreditation certificate will be revised to indicate the date of accreditation to ISO/IEC 17021:2011 and an expiration date consistent with the CB's accreditation cycle.
5. If the CB has not been accredited for conformance with ISO/IEC 17021:2011 by 2012/10/31, ANAB management staff is authorized by the Accreditation Council to suspend its accreditation for a maximum of three months.
  - 5.1. Within five calendar days of the notice of suspension, the CB shall provide to ANAB for review and approval the notice the CB intends to provide to its certified and applicant clients of (1) suspension of its accreditation and the possibility of withdrawal of accreditation by ANAB, (2) the requirement for clients to return ANAB-accredited certificates (as applicable) in the event of withdrawal of accreditation, and (3) the process for clients to transfer certification to another ANAB-accredited CB.
  - 5.2. Within 30 calendar days of the notice of suspension, the CB shall provide to ANAB the names, mailing addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses (as applicable) of all of its clients with ANAB-accredited certifications.
8. If the CB has not been accredited for conformance with ISO/IEC 17021:2011 on or before 2013/01/31, ANAB management staff is authorized by the Accreditation Council to withdraw the CB's accreditation.