



Heads Up

Issue: 138

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To: ANAB Applicant and Accredited CBs and Accreditation Assessors

From: Randy Dougherty, Vice President, ANAB

Re: Certifications Cannot Be Extended Past Three Years

Since ISO/IEC 17021 has been fully implemented by all ANAB-accredited CBs, ANAB has been asked the same question numerous times: "Can a CB extend an ANAB-accredited certificate past the three-year certification if all re-certification requirements were not met prior to the certification expiration?"

The answer is **No**.

Per ISO/IEC 17021 certificate extensions are not allowed, no matter the situation, per several requirements within ISO/IEC 17021:

8.2.3.c states, *The certification document(s) shall identify the following...**the expiry date or recertification due date consistent with the recertification cycle...***

9.1.1 states, *...The **three-year certification cycle** begins with the certification or recertification decision.*

9.4.2.2 states, *When, during a recertification audit, instances of nonconformity or lack of evidence of conformity are identified, the certification body shall define **time limits for correction and corrective actions to be implemented prior to the expiration of certification.***

A decision for initial certification or re-certification cannot be granted unless all of the conditions of 9.1.15 are fulfilled, so if the re-certification audit has not been conducted, or any nonconformities have not been addressed to the extent required by 9.1.15b or 9.1.15c, then a certification expires until the conditions are fulfilled.

It should be noted that if a CB has the practice of placing the original certification date or certified since date on the certificate, then if a certificate lapses for a period of time these dates are no longer valid.