



Heads Up

Issue: 131

Date: 2008/09/04

To: ANAB-Accredited and Applicant CBs and Accreditation Assessors

From: Lori Scheid-Gillespie, Manager of Accreditation

Re: New ANAB Accreditation Manual and Accreditation Rule 28

The ANAB Accreditation Manual, MA 6000.00, has been revised to correct errors; change references from "IAF guidance" to "IAF documents"; move the complaint process to Accreditation Rule 28 to highlight it; and strengthen sections on withdrawal and suspension based on lessons learned.

Also, a few other improvements:

1. The Manual also includes a change in the NCR escalation process. ANAB will no longer be escalating NCRs at the 30-day mark as long as the CB has provided a response to the NCR and is working with the ANAB assessor on an acceptable plan. If the CB has not responded at all, the NCR will be escalated at the 30-day mark.
2. Historically, ANAB has required a Stage 1 witnessed audit for EMS re-accreditations at the time of re-accreditation (last year of the cycle). Per the Manual, we are now allowing that Stage 1 witnessing to be conducted at any time during the accreditation cycle (not in the last year as previously required). However, with ISO/IEC 17021 becoming effective, ANAB is requiring a re-accreditation Stage 1 witnessed audit for all base standards.

- a. The re-accreditation Stage 1 witnessed audit:
 - i. Shall be completed per base standard for which the CB is accredited by ANAB.
 - ii. May be performed on a subordinate standard (e.g., AS9100 for QMS or RC for EMS).
 - iii. May be performed during an initial accreditation for a subordinate standard.
 - iv. May be conducted at anytime during the accreditation cycle.
 - v. Shall be in addition to the annual required witnessed audits as outlined in ANAB's Accreditation Manual under article 7.

ANAB plans to conduct the Stage 1 witnessed audits earlier in the accreditation cycle in case there are limited Stage 1 audits to witness.

- b. Also, with the implementation of ISO/IEC 17021, ANAB asks that all CBs notify their ANAB coordinators of all upcoming Stage 1s (for all ANAB-accredited standards) so that ANAB may witness a Stage 1 in the coming years. This will not only serve as the

required re-accreditation Stage 1 per accreditation period (per base standard) but will also allow ANAB to verify conformance of the new Stage 1 process for the QMS standards.

Both the new version of the Accreditation Manual, MA 6000.01, and Accreditation Rule 28, Complaints About Certification Bodies and Certified Organizations, were published 28 August 2008, and will be implemented 01 December 2008.