



Heads Up

Issue: 108

Date: 2007/08/24

To: ANAB Accredited and Applicant CBs and Accreditation Auditors

From: Randy Dougherty, Director of Accreditation

Re: Transition to ISO/IEC 17021 (Update to Heads Up Issues 80 and 89)

The last Heads Up on this topic was published in December 2006. Since then, there have been additional developments at IAF.

In March 2007 in San Francisco, the IAF Technical Committee appointed seven task forces to review IAF GD2 and IAF GD6 and decide what annexes should be developed and published to supersede the current annexes (I refer you to the text of IAF Resolution 2006-09 which I sent to you in Heads Up Issue 89). The seven task forces are for the following subjects:

1. Scopes of accreditation for QMS
2. Duration of ISO 9001 QMS audits
3. Duration of ISO 14001 EMS audits
4. Multi-site sampling (for QMS and EMS)
5. Transfer of accredited certification (for QMS and EMS)
6. Advanced surveillance and reassessment procedures (ASRP) (for QMS and EMS)
7. Computer assisted audit techniques (CAAT) (for QMS and EMS)

Note: IAF members are already commenting on draft IAF normative criteria for multi-sites, transfers, ASRP, and CAAT.

In addition, the IAF Technical Committee decided that the requirements for sampling of EMS multi-site certifications, which are in the body of IAF GD6 rather than in an annex, should also continue to be applied until superseded.

In May 2007, IAF published IAF GD8:2007, Informative Guidance on the Transition to ISO/IEC 17021 from ISO/IEC Guide 62 and ISO/IEC Guide 66, which can be downloaded free of charge from the IAF Web site, www.iaf.nu. While this document is non-mandatory guidance, it has suggestions for ABs and CBs to transition smoothly at low cost, so I encourage all of you to read it. It also mentions a "phased approach" that may be of interest to a few ANAB-accredited CBs. Note that ANAB (like any other AB) is not required to allow a phased approach by any CB; however, ANAB will consider this for any CB that makes a specific request and provides good justification to ANAB.

On Monday, 13 August 2007, the MLA Committee of the Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC), a recognized regional accreditation group of IAF, decided to require all full member accreditation bodies to submit periodic status reports on the transition of their CBs to ISO/IEC 17021:2006. The reports are due 15 September 2007 and on the last days of January, April, and July of 2008, with a final report on the transition due 15 September 2008. ANAB is a full member of the IAAC and, therefore, is required to submit such reports. Any AB that does not provide such reports or does not conform to the deadline will lose its status as a full member of IAAC.

This action by IAAC reinforces the need for all ABs to communicate with and monitor the transition by their accredited CBs. ANAB will also announce additional actions to ensure the transition by its accredited CBs by the deadline, and the actions ANAB will take for any CB that does not complete the transition by the deadline.