

Date : 23 January 2017



STANDARDS
MALAYSIA

The Scheme for the Accreditation of Certification Bodies (The ACB Scheme)
ACB CIRCULAR 3/2017

TRANSITION OF ISO/IEC 17021-2:2016
CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT – REQUIREMENTS FOR BODIES PROVIDING
AUDIT AND CERTIFICATION OF MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS – PART 2:
COMPETENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR AUDITING AND CERTIFICATION OF
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

1. Introduction and scope

The standard ISO/IEC 17021-2:2016 - Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems – Part 2: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of environmental management systems was published on 1 December 2016. This edition of ISO/IEC 17021-2:2016 cancels and replaces ISO/IEC TS 17021-2:2012.

This standard applies to auditing and certification to Environmental Management Systems (EMS). The International Accreditation Forum (IAF) have agreed to a **(2) two year transition period** from the publication date of ISO/IEC 17021-2:2016 for certification bodies to bring their operations and processes in line with the requirements of the new standard. As such, Standards Malaysia will require all of its accredited certification bodies under the related management systems accreditation programme to confirm to the new standard by **1 December 2018**.

2. Objective

This circular is aimed to inform the related Standards Malaysia accredited certification bodies on the transition processes that will be implemented by Standards Malaysia for the transition to the new standard, ISO/IEC 17021-2:2016 within the transition dateline, i.e by or before **1 December 2018**.

3. Standards Malaysia requirements for the transition to ISO/IEC 17021-2:2016

3.1 Accredited Certification Bodies

- i. Certification bodies (CB) are advised to review the new standard, conduct a gap analysis, train personnel and review criteria for qualification of related personnel to incorporate the changes into their management system. Certification bodies are required to **document and submit to Standards Malaysia prior to the transition assessment the following:**
 1. Gap analysis to ISO/IEC 17021-2:2016

2. Training records to ISO/IEC 17021-2:2016
 3. Criteria for qualification of related personnel meeting the requirements of ISO/IEC 17021-2:2016
- ii. Standards Malaysia shall assess all related accredited certification bodies against the new standard as part of the annual office assessments beginning **1 June 2017**. A verification assessment may be carried out to verify compliance against the new standard.
 - iii. Findings to the new ISO/IEC 17021-2:2016 shall be raised as non-conformance or observations depending on the nature of the subject matter. Corrective actions for the non-conformances shall be verified and closed out before recommendation for accreditation to ISO/IEC 17021-2:2016 is granted.
 - iv. If a certification body fails to comply with ISO/IEC 17021-2:2016 by 1 December 2018, the certification body shall be suspended for a maximum of 3 months. After the suspension, failure of the certification bodies to take any action would result in withdrawal of accreditation.

3.2 New Application:

- i. All new applications received after **1 January 2017** shall be assessed against ISO/IEC 17021-2:2016.
- ii. For existing applicants, assessments after **1 June 2017** shall be assessed against ISO/IEC 17021-2:2016.

3.3 Extension of Scope:

- i. No extension of scope to ISO/IEC 17021-2:2012 shall be accepted after **1 January 2017**.

4. Validity of ISO/IEC 17021-2:2012

The status of accreditation to ISO/IEC 17021-2:2012 will remain valid until the certification body achieves the transition or until the end of the transition period, i.e 1 December 2018.

THANK YOU

Director of Accreditation