

Accreditation for Management Systems Certification

IS-9

INAB offers certification bodies accreditation to the international standard ISO 17021:2011 “Conformity assessment - *requirements for bodies auditing and certification of management systems*”.

A Management Systems Certification Body (CB) must be able to demonstrate its competence to assess and certify a management system that conforms to specific requirements.

INAB accredits CBs to the international standard, ISO 17021 on demonstration of its competence to carry out management system conformity assessment related to products, processes, systems or persons. INAB publishes a Schedule of Accreditation for each accredited CB which specifies industry sector codes within which the CB has demonstrated its competence.

Quality Management Systems Certification (ISO 9001)

Quality Management System certification is provided by certification bodies (CBs) to organisations whose management system meets the requirements of the ISO 9000 series of standards.

ISO 9001:2008 is an international standard that sets out an organisation’s quality management system. Its objective is to provide a set of requirements that are effectively implemented to provide confidence that goods and services supplied by the organisation consistently meet customer needs and expectations and comply with applicable regulations.

ISO 9001:2008 requirements cover a wide range of business aspects including top management commitment to quality, purchasing, process control, equipment calibration, customer complaint handling and continual improvement. ISO 9001:2008 does not specify requirements for the products/services provided; that is up to the customer.

Environmental Management System Certification (ISO 14001)

Environmental Management System certification is provided by certification bodies (CBs) to organisations whose management systems meet the requirements of the ISO14001:2004 standard.

ISO14001:2004 specifies the elements of an environmental management system that an organisation must have in place in order to become certified to the standard. In order to achieve this standard a company must have an environmental policy in place that is communicated to all employees. It

must define its environmental aspects and set objectives and targets to improve its environmental impact and performance. These objectives and targets should be measurable

and be monitored closely by the organisation. A company must also ensure it is compliant with any applicable environmental legislation.

Energy Management Systems Certification (EN 16001)

A Management Systems Certification Body must be able to demonstrate its competence to assess and certify an energy management system that conforms to EN 16001:2009.

Its overall aim is to put in place systems and processes to provide significant energy usage reductions resulting in an associated decline in costs and greenhouse gas emission achievable through the systematic management of energy. The standard is consistent with the ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 management systems presently adopted throughout Irish industry.

Information Security Management Systems Certification (ISO 27001)

Information Security Management Systems certification is provided by certification bodies to organisations who have demonstrated that they have implemented a system for the management of information.

Certification Service Providers (CSP) under the Electronic Signature Directive

CSP Certification is provided by certification bodies to certification service providers (CSPs) issuing qualified certificates (as defined in the Electronic Signatures Directive, 1999/93/EC) provided they are already accredited.

A qualified certificate issued by a CSP is recognised by the Electronic Signatures Directive as having legal equivalence to a handwritten signature.

ISO 17021 has a number of requirements for organisational structure, quality management system elements, competence of personnel, confidentiality, information and process description. The certification body must be able to demonstrate compliance with all of these requirements.

Once the Management Systems Certification Body has all of the organisational and technical measures in place, and has been operating a certification service for a period of time sufficient to have historical records built up, and to be able to demonstrate that the operation is stable (typically three months minimum), it can apply to INAB for accreditation.

INAB applicant and accredited Management Systems Certification bodies are required to implement in full the requirements of ISO 17021 and associated EA, IAF¹ and INAB mandatory documents, which may be accessed from the INAB website at www.inab.ie

Certification bodies are accredited in compliance with ISO 17021 for a defined range of activities and these are detailed in a scope of accreditation which is annexed to the organisation's accreditation certificate.

A directory of these scopes of accreditation is maintained by INAB and is available from the INAB website.

The process for the accreditation of certification bodies is fully described in INAB Publication P7, also available from the INAB website.

For further information please contact INAB at:

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¹ EA is the European Co-operation for Accreditation
IAF is the International Accreditation Forum