

International Accreditation Forum, Inc.



IAF Informative Document



QMS Scopes of Accreditation

Issue 1

(IAF ID 1:2010)

The International Accreditation Forum, Inc. (IAF) operates programs for the accreditation of bodies that provide conformity assessment services, and such accreditation facilitates trade and reduces demands for multiple certifications.

Accreditation reduces risk for business and its customers by assuring them that accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) are competent to carry out the work they undertake within their scope of accreditation. Accreditation Bodies (ABs) which are members of IAF and their accredited CABs are required to comply with appropriate international standards and IAF mandatory documents for the consistent application of those standards.

AB members of the IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) conduct regular evaluations of each other to assure the equivalence of their accreditation programs. The IAF MLAs operate at two levels:

- 0 A MLA for the accreditation of CABs to standards including ISO/IEC 17020 for inspection bodies, ISO/IEC 17021 for management systems CABs, ISO/IEC 17024 for personnel CABs and ISO/IEC Guide 65 for product CABs, is considered a framework MLA. A framework MLA provides confidence that accredited CABs are equally reliable in the performance of conformity assessment activities.
- 1 A MLA for the accreditation of CABs that also includes the specific conformity assessment standard or scheme as a scope of accreditation provides confidence in the equivalence of certification.

An IAF MLA delivers the confidence needed for market acceptance of certification. An organization or person with certification to a specific standard or scheme that is accredited by an IAF MLA signatory AB can be recognized worldwide thereby facilitating international trade.

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Introduction to IAF Mandatory Documents

This IAF Informative Document reflects the consensus of IAF members on this subject and is intended to support the consistent application of requirements. However, being a document for information purposes only, IAF Accreditation Body Members, and the Conformity Assessment Bodies they accredit, are not under any obligation to use or comply with anything in this document.

QMS Accreditation Scopes

This is an informative document and is to facilitate the consistent application of Clause 7.1.1 of ISO/IEC 17021:2006 and Clause 7.2.1 of ISO/IEC 17011 by accreditation bodies. This document is adopted from the guidance previously provided in IAF GD2: 2005, Annex 1. All clauses of ISO/IEC 17021 will continue to apply and this document does not supersede any of the requirements in that standard.

This list of scopes of accreditation is based on the statistical nomenclature for economic activities NACE rev. 2 published by the Commission of European Communities (official Journal L 393/1, 30.12.2006).

No	Description of economic sector /activity	NACE – Division / Group / Class (rev.2)
1	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	01, 02, 03
2	Mining and quarrying	05, 06, 07, 08, 09
3	Food products, beverages and tobacco	10, 11, 12
4	Textiles and textile products	13, 14
5	Leather and leather products	15
6	Wood and wood products	16
7	Pulp, paper and paper products	17
8	Publishing companies	58.1, 59.2
9	Printing companies	18
10	Manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products	19

11	Nuclear fuel	24.46
12	Chemicals, chemical products and fibres	20
13	Pharmaceuticals	21
14	Rubber and plastic products	22
15	Non-metallic mineral products	23, except 23.5 and 23.6
16	Concrete, cement, lime, plaster etc	23.5, 23.6
17	Basic metals and fabricated metal products	24 except 24.46, 25 except 25.4, 33.11
18	Machinery and equipment	25.4, 28, 30.4, 33.12, 33.2
19	Electrical and optical equipment	26, 27, 33.13, 33.14, 95.1
20	Shipbuilding	30.1, 33.15
21	Aerospace	30.3, 33.16
22	Other transport equipment	29, 30.2, 30.9, 33.17
23	Manufacturing not elsewhere classified	31, 32, 33.19
24	Recycling	38.3
25	Electricity supply	35.1
26	Gas supply	35.2
27	Water supply	35.3, 36
28	Construction	41, 42, 43
29	Wholesale and retail trade; Repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods	45, 46, 47, 95.2
30	Hotels and restaurants	55, 56
31	Transport, storage and communication	49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 61

32	Financial intermediation; real estate; renting	64, 65, 66, 68, 77
33	Information technology	58.2, 62, 63.1
34	Engineering services	71, 72, 74 except 74.2 and 74.3
35	Other services	69, 70, 73, 74.2, 74.3, 78, 80, 81, 82
36	Public administration	84
37	Education	85
38	Health and social work	75, 86, 87, 88
39	Other social services	37, 38.1, 38.2, 39, 59.1, 60, 63.9, 79, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 96

Notes: Sections T and U from NACE Rev 2 including the NACE Codes 97, 98, and 99 are not included in the table

The use of these QMS Scopes to describe “technical areas” for a quality management system, as referred to in ISO/IEC 17021:2006, 7.1.1, is limited. While scope 11 “Nuclear Fuel” might constitute a legitimate descriptor for a technical area, few of the other headings would do so.

The accredited scope of a QMS certification body may be expressed in terms of one or more elements from a list of economic activities. This document is one such model.

End of IAF Informative Document for QMS Accreditation Scopes

Further Information

For further Information on this document or other IAF documents, contact any member of IAF or the IAF Secretariat.

For contact details of members of IAF see - IAF Web Site - <<http://www.iaf.nu>>

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