



IAF Informative Document

IAF Informative Document for QMS and EMS Scopes of Accreditation

Issue 3

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The International Accreditation Forum, Inc. (IAF) facilitates trade and supports regulators by operating a worldwide mutual recognition arrangement among Accreditation Bodies (ABs) in order that the results issued by Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) accredited by IAF members are accepted globally.

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

ABs that are signatories to the IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) are evaluated regularly by an appointed team of peers to provide confidence in the operations of their accreditation programmes. The structure and scope of the IAF MLA is detailed in IAF PR 4 - Structure of IAF MLA and Endorsed Normative Documents.

The IAF MLA is structured in five levels: Level 1 specifies mandatory criteria that apply to all ABs, ISO/IEC 17011. The combination of a Level 2 activity(ies) and the corresponding Level 3 normative document(s) is called the main scope of the MLA, and the combination of Level 4 (if applicable) and Level 5 relevant normative documents is called a sub-scope of the MLA.

- The main scope of the MLA includes activities e.g. product certification and associated mandatory documents e.g. ISO/IEC 17065. The attestations made by CABs at the main scope level are considered to be equally reliable.
- The sub scope of the MLA includes conformity assessment requirements e.g. ISO 9001 and scheme specific requirements, where applicable, e.g. ISO TS 22003. The attestations made by CABs at the sub scope level are considered to be equivalent.

The IAF MLA delivers the confidence needed for market acceptance of conformity assessment outcomes. An attestation issued, within the scope of the IAF MLA, by a body that is accredited by an IAF MLA signatory AB can be recognized worldwide, thereby facilitating international trade.

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Introduction to IAF Informative 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.

IAF INFORMATIVE DOCUMENT FOR QMS AND EMS SCOPES OF ACCREDITATION

1. INTRODUCTION

This is an informative document and is to facilitate the consistent application of Clause 7.1.2 of ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 and Clause 7.2.1 of ISO/IEC 17011:2017 by Accreditation Bodies. This document is adopted from the guidance previously provided in IAF GD2: 2005, Annex 1 for QMS Accreditation Scopes. All clauses of ISO/IEC 17021-1 will continue to apply and this document does not supersede any of the requirements in that standard.

The lists of scopes of accreditation are 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).

2. SCOPE

This informative document is applicable for QMS and EMS management systems certification and is to help define the scopes of accreditation.

3. QMS AND EMS SCOPES OF ACCREDITATION

The accredited scope of an EMS / QMS Certification Body may be expressed in terms of one or more elements from a list of economic activities. The following tables for QMS and EMS (see Annex) are one such model.

End of IAF Informative Document for QMS and EMS Scopes of Accreditation.

ANNEX – Models for EMS and QMS Accreditation Scopes

QMS Accreditation Scope		
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

EMS Accreditation Scope			
No	Description of economic sector /activity	NACE – Division / Group / Class (rev.2)	Examples of Common Environmental Aspects
1	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	01, 02, 03	Pesticides/herbicides, etc.
2	Mining and quarrying	05, 06, 07, 08, 09	Hazardous waste, etc.
3	Food products, beverages and tobacco	10, 11, 12	Industrial water effluent treatment, energy usage, pesticides, etc.
4	Textiles and textile products	13, 14	Industrial water effluent without treatment, energy usage, solid waste; Hazardous and bulk chemical storage, etc.
5	Leather and leather products	15	Industrial water effluent treatment, solid waste; Hazardous and bulk chemical storage, etc.
6	Wood and wood products	16	Solid waste, energy usage, etc.
7	Pulp, paper and paper products	17	Industrial water effluent treatment, air emissions, hazardous chemical storage, etc.
8	Publishing companies	58.1, 59.2	Solid waste, hazardous chemical storage, energy usage, etc.
9	Printing companies	18	Solid waste, hazardous chemical storage, energy usage, etc.
10	Manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products	19	Hazardous and bulk chemical storage, industrial water effluent treatment, hazardous air emissions, hazardous waste, etc.
11	Nuclear fuel	24.46	Radiation/radioactivity, etc.
12	Chemicals, chemical products and fibres	20	Hazardous and bulk chemical storage, industrial water effluent treatment, hazardous air emissions, hazardous waste, etc.
13	Pharmaceuticals	21	Hazardous and bulk chemical storage, industrial water effluent treatment, hazardous waste, etc.
14	Rubber and plastic products	22	Hazardous and bulk chemical storage, industrial water effluent treatment, hazardous air emissions, hazardous Waste, etc.
15	Non-metallic mineral products	23, except 23.5 and 23.6	Energy usage, etc.
16	Concrete, cement, lime, plaster etc	23.5, 23.6	Air emissions, solid waste, etc.
17	Basic metals and fabricated metal products	24 except 24.46, 25 except 25.4, 33.11	Solid waste, hazardous chemical storage, energy usage, etc.
18	Machinery and equipment	25.4, 28, 30.4, 33.12, 33.2	Hazardous waste, hazardous chemical storage, industrial water effluent, etc.
19	Electrical and optical equipment	26, 27, 33.13, 33.14, 95.1	Hazardous waste, hazardous chemical storage, industrial water effluent, etc.

20	Shipbuilding	30.1, 33.15	Hazardous waste, hazardous chemical storage, industrial water effluent, solid waste, etc.
21	Aerospace	30.3, 33.16	Hazardous waste, hazardous chemical storage, industrial water effluent, solid waste, etc.
22	Other transport equipment	29, 30.2, 30.9, 33.17	Hazardous waste, hazardous chemical storage, industrial water effluent, solid waste, etc.
23	Manufacturing not elsewhere classified	31, 32, 33.19	Solid waste, Industrial water effluent, air emissions, etc.
24	Recycling	38.3	Hazardous waste, solid waste, sanitary effluent, etc.
25	Electricity supply	35.1	Air emissions, industrial water effluent, etc.
26	Gas supply	35.2	Air emissions, etc.
27	Water supply	35.3, 36	Drinking water effluent treatment, etc.
28	Construction	41, 42, 43	Sanitary effluent, noise pollution, energy usage, etc.
29	Wholesale and retail trade; Repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods	45, 46, 47, 95.2	Hazardous chemical storage, sanitary effluent, etc.
30	Hotels and restaurants	55, 56	Solid waste, hazardous chemical storage, sanitary effluent, pesticides, etc.
31	Transport, storage and communication	49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 61	Bulk oil storage, energy usage, hazardous chemical storage, air emissions, etc.
32	Financial intermediation; real estate; renting	64, 65, 66, 68, 77	Energy usage, air emissions, etc.
33	Information technology	58.2, 62, 63.1	Energy usage, hazardous waste, solid Waste, etc.
34	Engineering services	71, 72, 74 except 74.2 and 74.3	Hazardous chemical storage, hazardous waste, air emissions, sanitary effluent, etc.
35	Other services	69, 70, 73, 74.2, 74.3, 78, 80, 81, 82	Hazardous chemical storage, hazardous Waste, etc.
36	Public administration	84	Energy usage, solid waste, etc.
37	Education	85	Energy usage, solid waste, etc.
38	Health and social work	75, 86, 87, 88	Biohazard waste, radiation/radioactivity, sanitary effluent, etc.
39	Other social services	37, 38.1, 38.2, 39, 59.1, 60, 63.9, 79, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 96	Wide variation

Note 1: No risk level has been assigned for each IAF code. Each AB would be responsible to define the risk level of each scope taking into account the local legislation, the environmental aspects and the requirements defined in MD5.

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

Note 3: The use of QMS Scopes / EMS Scopes to describe “technical areas” for a quality / environment management system, as referred to in ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015, 7.1.2., is limited. While scope 11 “Nuclear Fuel” might constitute a legitimate descriptor for a technical area, few of the other headings would do so.

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 the IAF website: <http://www.iaf.nu>.

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