

NABCB Transition Policy on ISO 14066: 2023

Introduction:

NABCB operates its accreditation schemes based on international standards and other mandatory requirements of IAF / ILAC / APAC as relevant and approved by the NABCB Board. The Validation and Verification Bodies (VVB) are required to comply with ISO 14065, and the requirements of IAF/ APAC as well as NABCB as specified in the NABCB Accreditation Criteria, and Accreditation Procedure for Validation & Verification Bodies (VVBs). The NABCB Accreditation Criteria for VVBs prescribes that they shall comply with ISO/IEC 17029, ISO 14065 and relevant IAF documents (IAF MD 6, MD 14).

The revised standard ISO 14066:2023 "*Environmental information – Competence requirements for teams validating and verifying environmental information*" was published in Aug'2023. This document is applicable to all organizations that plan and conduct external or internal validations, verifications, and Agreed Upon Procedures (AUP).

This document is not linked to any particular environmental information programme. If a particular environmental information programme is applicable, competence requirements of that environmental information programme are additional to the requirements of this document.

The International Accreditation Forum (IAF) in its General Assembly held in Nov'2023 has passed the following resolutions:

- 1) The transition period for the revised standard ISO 14066:2023 shall be two years from the date of publication i.e. by 31 Aug'2025. Within this transition timeline:
 - a) Accreditation against the new version of ISO 14066:2023 shall require accreditation to ISO/IEC 17029:2019 and ISO 14065:2020.
 - b) Where local legislation/regulation requires accredited validation/verification referencing ISO 14066: 2011 and has not been amended to reference the new version of ISO 14066:2023, the use of ISO 14066:2011 in accredited validation/verification may be extended.

Considering the above transitional requirements by IAF, NABCB is required to evaluate the operations and planning of accredited VVBs to ensure that all transitions are completed by two years i.e., 31st Aug 2025.

1. All VVBs accredited to ISO 14066:2011 under ISO/IEC 17029:2019 and ISO 14065:2020 shall submit a transition plan by 15th Feb 2025. The transition plan of VVB shall clearly indicate the date by which the VVB shall transition to ISO 14066:2023. The accredited VVBs shall submit the gap analysis including duly filled-in CRM cum DRR along with revised document for ISO 14066:2023 standard by 28th Feb 2025.
2. NABCB shall carry out a transition assessment against ISO 14066:2023 from 01 Mar'2025. This can be part of the office assessment (Surveillance / Re-assessment) with an addition of 0.5 MD onsite for assessing compliance with transition requirements. If this is planned as a separate assessment, 1 MD shall be considered for transition assessment off-site.



3. New applicants seeking NABCB accreditation under the VVB accreditation scheme shall be required to seek accreditation as per ISO 14066:2023 standard in conjunction with ISO/IEC 17029:2019 standard w.e.f. 1st Feb 2025.
4. NABCB shall assess the accredited VVBs as per ISO 14066:2023 in the next Surveillance assessment / Reassessment as per its due schedule whose compliance was demonstrated through off-site review.
5. In case NABCB accredited VVB is not ready to undertake an assessment or Off-site review as per ISO 14066:2023 until 30th April 2025, or unable to demonstrate compliance in the scheduled on-site Surveillance assessment / Reassessment conducted, the findings shall be raised as Non-conformities in the NABCB assessment carried.
6. NABCB accredited VVBs shall be allowed a maximum time period of 02 months until 30th June 2025 to comply with the requirements of ISO 14066:2023 in addition to both ISO 14065:2020 and ISO/IEC 17029:2019 standards.
7. NABCB accredited VVBs that are unable to transit until 31st July 2025, shall be suspended, and the accreditation granted shall be subsequently withdrawn if they are unable to demonstrate compliance to both the standards latest by 31st Aug 2025.
8. Applicant VVBs with NABCB who have applied as per ISO 14066:2011 and have already undergone initial office assessment by NABCB on or before 28th Feb'2025 shall have to undergo assessment as in S. No. 2 above before being granted accreditation.
9. No new applications shall be accepted as per ISO 14066:2011 in addition to ISO/IEC 17029: 2019 and ISO 14065:2020 after 31st Jan 2025.

This policy shall remain in force until **31st Aug 2025**.