



**Accreditation Criteria
For
Quality Management Systems**

BCB 101 - Jan 2026





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0.0 Foreword:

The Government of India and the Indian Industry came together to establish the accreditation system in response to the need of the industry and the certification bodies of Management Systems (QMS, EMS and other Management Systems) who were largely dependent on the accreditation system of Europe and US.

A council with representation from Government, Industry, Certification Bodies, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), etc. was formed and named as Quality Council of India. This Council was entrusted to establish the accreditation system in India. A National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies was established to implement the accreditation of the Certification Bodies.

The initial set of criteria for QMS accreditation approved by the Board was as per ISO/IEC Guide 62:1996. Consequent upon the publication of ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 as applicable the Board has adopted this standard as the basic criteria for accreditation of management systems certification bodies. After the revision of accreditation standard, NABCB has adopted ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 standard as the basic criteria for accreditation of management systems certification bodies.

1.0 Scope

This document specifies the requirements that a third party body operating a Quality Management System (QMS) Certification Programme shall meet if it is to be recognized by the Board as competent and reliable in the operation of QMS Certification.

2.0 Criteria

The Certification Bodies seeking accreditation for Quality Management System Certification shall comply with the requirements specified in ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015, “Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems

A copy of ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 can be obtained from the Bureau of Indian Standards or from ISO Secretariat.

Note: Whenever there is revision of ISO/IEC 17021-1, NABCB follows the transition policy as prescribed by IAF.

3.0 Guidance on the Requirements of ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015

The Board has adopted the IAF mandatory documents on application of ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 as the additional criteria document of NABCB.

If any further clarifications beyond the IAF mandatory documents available are required, the same will be issued by the Board on case-to-case basis.
IAF MDs are freely downloadable from IAF website.

4.0 Scope of Accreditation

The Board has adopted the scope of accreditation based on the Statistical Nomenclature of Economic Activities as per IAF ID 1 and the same is available as annexure to NABCB procedure BCB 201 (MS).

5.0 Certification Body (CB) Competence

5.1 Accreditation by NABCB signifies that the certification body is competent to offer ISO 9001 and sector specific standards like ISO 13485, ISO 15378, ISO 21001, etc. as applicable certification in specific sectors. The CB would be expected to identify the technical areas where there is no IAF documents (MD) published for which it seeks accreditation and clearly demonstrate that it has the competence to offer certification in these areas.

The CB shall determine the competence needed for each function and the technical areas for which it seeks accreditation in accordance with the criteria document ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015.

5.2 The CB shall have a procedure for initial qualification and subsequent monitoring of its auditors and experts based on ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015, ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017, sector specific standards and IAF mandatory documents (i.e IAF MD 9). The CB shall establish procedures for qualifying an auditor / expert for a specific technical area.

6.0 Time of the Audits undertaken by the Certification Body

The Board has adopted the IAF mandatory document MD 5 and MD 9 etc. as applicable on the audit man days that are normally required for audits to verify compliance to ISO 9001 and sector specific standards.

The Certification body shall have procedures to determine the audit man days required for audit for initial assessment, surveillance and reassessment. The procedure shall also include the policies for estimation of audit duration for multisite /organizations and transfer of certificates, as needed.

Note: For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.



Amendment Record

<u>Date</u>	<u>Auth. by</u>	<u>Description of Amendment</u>
May 2016	CEO	ISO/IEC 17021-1 and ISO/IEC 17021-3 added in place of Guide 62 and ISO/IEC 17021:2006
Mar 2019	CEO	To include adoption of IAF/APAC Requirements and To make minor edits
Dec 2023	CEO	Minor edits based on internal review
Jan 2026	CEO	NABCB office address Changed