



**Accreditation Criteria**  
**For**  
**Environment Management System**  
**BCB 105 – 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 EMS accreditation approved by the Board is as per ISO/IEC 17021:2011 as applicable and 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 Environmental Management System (EMS) Certification Programme shall meet if it is to be recognized by the Board as competent and reliable in the operation of EMS Certification.

## 2.0 Criteria

The Certification Bodies seeking accreditation for Environmental Management System Certification shall comply to the requirements specified in ISO/IEC 17021-1 "Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems.

A copy of the 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 17021-1:2015, 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 the Application of ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 as the additional criteria for accreditation.

If any further clarification/guidance beyond the IAF guidance document available is required, the same will be considered by the Board and issued on case to case basis. IAF MDs are freely downloadable from the 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 Annex 3 to BCB 201 (MS)

#### **5.0 Certification Body (CB) Competence**

5.1 Accreditation by NABCB signifies that the certification body is competent to offer ISO 14001:2015 certification in specific technical areas. The CB would be expected to identify the technical areas for which it seeks accreditation and clearly demonstrate that it has the competence to offer certification in these areas.

The CB must have carried out a competence determination in 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 and ISO/IEC 17021-2:2016. 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 IAF mandatory document IAF MD 5 provides the basis for the auditing time required for an EMS audit to be effectively carried out on any organization. The certification body shall have procedure for determining the appropriate auditor-days required to carry out an effective audit. The certification body procedure shall take in to account the factors as listed in the guidance documents. The procedure shall also include the policies for estimation of audit duration for multisite organizations and transfer of certificates, as needed



### **Amendment Record**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Auth. by</u></b>	<b><u>Description of Amendment</u></b>
May 2016	CEO	<u>ISO/IEC 17021-1 and ISO/IEC 17021-2 added in place of Guide 66 and ISO/IEC 17021:2006</u>
Feb 2019	CEO	ISO/IEC TS 17021-2:2012 replaced by ISO/IEC 17021-2:2016 and to replace ISO 17021 by ISO/IEC
Dec 2023	CEO	Minor edits based on internal review
Jan 2026	CEO	NABCB office address Changed