



## **NATIONAL ACCREDITATION BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION BODIES (NABCB)**

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# **Accreditation Criteria for Artificial Intelligence Management System (AIMS)**



**NABCB 220 – April 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, OHSMS, EnMS, ISMS, ITSMS, AIMS and other Management Systems).

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

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming industries by enhancing efficiencies, fostering innovation, and enabling new capabilities. However, the deployment and management of AI systems come with significant challenges, including ethical considerations, risk management, data quality and transparency, information and cyber security, and the validation and verification of algorithms.

ISO/IEC 42001 provides guidelines for the deployment of applicable controls to support management processes of organizations that develop, produce, use AI systems by ensuring security, safety, fairness, transparency, data quality and quality of AI systems throughout their life cycle.

The NABCB has already published Accreditation Criteria for Inspection bodies, Product Certification Bodies, Personnel Certification bodies, QMS, EMS, FSMS, ISMS, ITSMS, and other Management systems. This document sets out the Accreditation criteria for Certification Bodies to provide certification for '**Artificial Intelligence Management System (AIMS)**' based on ISO/IEC 42001:2023 Information Technology – Artificial Intelligence – Management system and any other standard meeting the requirements of the NABCB Policy on recognition of standards under accreditation schemes for certification.

## 1.0 Scope

This document specifies the requirements that a third-party certification body (CB) operating an Artificial Intelligence Management System (AIMS) Certification Programme shall meet if it is to be recognized by the Board as competent and reliable in the operation of AIMS Certification.

## 2.0 Criteria

The Certification Bodies seeking accreditation for Artificial Intelligence Management System Certification shall comply with the requirements specified in **ISO/IEC 17021-1, "Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems"** & **ISO/IEC 42006:2025 Information Technology - Artificial Intelligence-Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of artificial intelligence management systems**.



### **3.0 Adoption of IAF/APAC documents**

The Board shall adopt any IAF/APAC Mandatory Document on AIMS including application of ISO/IEC 17021-1 and ISO/IEC 42006:2025 as part of the NABCB criteria. If any further clarifications beyond ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 or ISO/IEC 42006:2025 are required, the same will be issued by the Board on a case-to-case basis.

The requirements of IAF Mandatory Documents: IAF MD 1, MD 2, MD 4, MD 11 & IAF MD 28 shall be applicable.

### **4.0 Scopes of Accreditation**

The Board has decided not to specify any scope sectors; accreditation shall be granted as per ISO/IEC 42006:2025

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

5.1 Accreditation by NABCB signifies that the certification body is competent to offer AIMS certification as per ISO/IEC 42001:2023. The Competence of the CB shall be established by assessing conformance to relevant provision of ISO/IEC 42006:2025.

5.2 The CB shall have a procedure for initial qualification and subsequent monitoring of all certification personnel based on ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 and specific requirements given in ISO/IEC 42006:2025.

5.3 NABCB requires the CBs to define their competence criteria of CB personnel in terms of knowledge and experience of the technical, AI and AIMS related legal obligations & regulatory developments relevant to AIMS, of the client that is audited and in accordance with the requirements specified in clause 7.1 (Competence of personnel) of ISO/IEC 42006:2025 as read with clause 7.1 of ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015

5.4 The certification body shall define sectors and technical areas based on AI risk, complexity of processing and business domains of the client. (For example, healthcare or financial sector clients may tend to use specialized AI models rather than generic ones for use – an oncology-based AI model would provide better data pattern and guidance than a generic model). Defining Such scope and technical area help in establishing competence criteria for auditors and use of technical experts.

### **6.0 Audit Time undertaken by the Certification Body**

The Certification body shall refer Cl. 9.1.4, Annex A (normative) and Annex B (informative) of ISO/IEC 42006:2025 in addition to ISO/IEC 17021-1 to determine the audit time calculation for the audit of AI Producer, AI Provider, AI User and with multiple roles that are normally required for audits to verify conformance to ISO/IEC 42001:2023 standard.

The Certification body shall have procedures to determine the audit man days required for initial certification audit, surveillance audit, recertification audit and special audits in accordance with ISO/IEC 42006:2025. The procedure shall also include the policies for estimation of audit duration for multisite /organizations and transfer of certificates, as needed.



## **7.0 Abbreviations Used**

ISO – International Organization for Standardization

IEC – International Electrotechnical Commission

IAF – International Accreditation Forum

APAC – Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation

AIMS - Artificial Intelligence Management System

QMS – Quality Management Systems

EMS – Environmental Management Systems

FSMS – Food Safety Management Systems

OHSMS – Occupational health and safety management systems

EnMS - Energy Management Systems

ISMS – Information Security Management System

ITSMS – Information Technology Service Management System

DIS – Draft International Standard



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**8.0 Amendment Record**

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Auth. by</b> | <b>Description of Amendment</b>          |
|-------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------|
| Apr 2026    | CEO             | Criteria aligned with ISO/IEC 42006:2025 |