

To all accredited and applicant Certification Bodies providing certification of persons.

Vs. rif.:

Ns. rif.: DC2013UTN008

Milano, 21/01/2013

Object: Dispositions regarding the transition of the accreditation of Certification Bodies (CBs) of persons from standard UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17024:2004 to UNI CEN EN ISO/IEC 17024:2012

On July 1, 2012 the international standard ISO/IEC 17065:2012 "*Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies operating the certification of persons*" was published, applicable to CBs providing the certification of persons.

The standard ISO/IEC 17024:2012 was implemented in Italy as the standard UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17024:2004 which replaces UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17024:2004, which has been withdrawn but is nevertheless still valid during the transition period.

IAF has established a transition period of 36 months from the date of publication. By July 1, 2015, all accreditation certificates issued against UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17024:2004 shall be in conformity with the new standard.

New applications for accreditation

From July 1, 2013, ACCREDIA will not accept any new applications for accreditation against UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17024:2004. after which date all applications will be issued only against UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17024:2012.

Transition management for CBs accredited against UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17024:2004

All CBs accredited against UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17024:2004 must prepare a transition program setting out the modifications necessary for the implementation of the new standard, giving details of the changes to be made to its management system, the list of documents which will be modified, the resources to be used, the program for personnel training and the timeframe for the completion of the modifications.

The transition program must also take into consideration the re-assessment of all accredited certification schemes, taking, as reference, paragraph 8 of UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17024:2004

This transition program must be made available to ACCREDIA by May 1, 2014, in advance of the transition audit. ACCREDIA will verify application of the plan during the first due audit at the CB's location.

ACCREDIA, unless specifically requested, will verify conformity with the new standard during the surveillance and renewal visits of the normal accreditation cycle, and all audits conducted after July 1, 2014, will be carried out against the new standard.

ACCREDIA wishes to avoid, as far as possible, any increase in costs for the CBs owing to the transition, except in special cases of persistent nonconformity with the standard resulting from specific requests which may involve supplementary or special inspection activities incurring additional expenses for the CB which will be communicated beforehand in accordance with the usual practices.

Any nonconformities raised against the new standard must be resolved positively prior to granting accreditation against UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17024:2012.

If actions which are not of great importance are not completed before July 1, 2015, they must be identified by the CB and made known to ACCREDIA on the occasion of the transition audit. The closure of such activities shall be verified during the next audit at the CB's location, also subsequent to the granting of accreditation against UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17024:2012.

From July 1, 2015, all remaining accreditations against UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17024:2004 will be annulled.

ACCREDIA reserves the right to alter the present dispositions in accordance with any EA or IAF directives and to draw up other documents to facilitate transition activities such as comparison lists, reference matrixes, guidelines and suchlike.

Please contact us for any further details or clarifications:

With our best regards,

IL VICE DIRETTORE DI DIPARTIMENTO
(dr. Emanuele RIVA)

