Annex 1
ISO/CASCO
CLARIFICATION REQUEST FORM

Date of submission: 2015-07-29

1. Requesting ISO Member or A liaison member: UNI	
2. Contact person: Marco CIBIEN	
3. Position: UNI Technical Officer (CASCO National Mirror Committee Secretary)	
4. Email address: marco.cibien@uni.com	

5. Requesting organizations main activity: *Please place an X next to the relevant category*	Management system certification	
	Personnel certification	
	Product certification	
	Laboratory	
	Inspection	
	Accreditation	
	Other (Please specify): standardization	X

6. Please specify the ISO/CASCO document by name and number (ISO/IEC 17XXX) and clause number:

ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015, 10.2.3.6

7. Clarification request, please formulate the request clearly and where possible in a format that enables a YES or NO answer. *Note: only one request per form is acceptable*:

Clause 10.2.6.3
Internal audits shall be performed at least once every 12 months. The frequency of internal audits may be reduced if the certification body can demonstrate that its management system continues to be effectively implemented according to this part of ISO/IEC 17021 and has proven stability.

QUESTION
"*If the certification body can demonstrate that its management system continues to be effectively implemented*": is it possible to reduce the frequency of internal audits to less than 12 months? It is our opinion that conducting an internal audit at least once a year has to be mandatory.

8. Consensus position of the maintenance group (This section is only to be completed by the maintenance group members)
It is required to conduct internal audit at least once a year but they can be less frequent e.g. every 16 months if the certification body can demonstrate its management system is effective. The answer to the clarification request question is YES, internal audits can be done less frequently than every 12 months where the certification body management system is effectively implemented and this can be demonstrated.

To be completed by maintenance group members only

Date request sent maintenance panel	2015.08.11	
Is the clarification request formatted in an acceptable manner?	yes	x
	no	
Is it clearly and unambiguously worded?	yes	x
	no	
Do you have a conflict in participating in this request if so please specify.	yes	
	no	x

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6. Please specify the ISO/CASCO document by name and number (ISO/IEC 17XXX) and clause number:

ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015, 5.2.4

7. Clarification request, please formulate the request clearly and where possible in a format that enables a YES or NO answer. *Note: only one request per form is acceptable*:

Clause 5.2.4
A certification body shall not certify another certification body for its quality management system.

QUESTION 1
Is the term "certification body" intended to mean all types of certification bodies (ISO/IEC 17021, 17024, 17065)? For instance, it is our understanding that a certification body of product or persons could be certified according to ISO 9001.

QUESTION 2
Does the impossibility of certifying "another certification body" apply to all types of activity?
For instance, is it possible to certify the training center of a CB according to ISO 9001? Is it possible to certify a department of a CB that has nothing to do with certification?

8. Consensus position of the maintenance group (This section is only to be completed by the maintenance group members)

Note clause 5.2.4 in ISO/IEC 17021:2011 stated "A certification body shall not certify another certification body for its management system certification activities." In the 2015 revision, the maintenance team are of the opinion thatleaving off the words "for its management system activities" was an unintended change in the intent of this clause

Question1
No, as this standard applies only to management system certification bodies, the prohibition in 5.2.4 applies only to them and for management system certification activity. Therefore, a Management System certification body cannot certify the QMS of another management system certification body.

Question 2

Yes, a certification body can be certified to ISO 9001 for activities other than management system certification. The intent of clause 5.2.4 of ISO/IEC 17021:2015 standard is to allow a CB to certify compliance of another CB with standards such as ISO 14001 and ISO 27001 standards and for a CB that is carrying out activities different from management system certification activities to have these activities certified by another CB provided that all requirements of ISO/IEC 17021-1 including impartiality are complied with.
Therefore a Management System certification body shall not certify another Management System certification body for its quality management system certification activities" but can certify one for its ISMS, EnMS, RTMS, etc., if so requested.

To be completed by maintenance group members only

Date request sent maintenance panel		
Is the clarification request formatted in an acceptable manner?	yes	
	no	
Is it clearly and unambiguously worded?	yes	
	no	
Do you have a conflict in participating in this request if so please specify.	yes	
	no	