

To all accredited and applicant Certification Bodies for the QMS, EMS and OHSAS schemes

Our ref.: DC2017SSV132

Milan, 15/05/2017

**Subject: ACCREDIA Department of Certification and Inspection – Circular N° 10/2017
Indications regarding the correct attribution of IAF sectors to the QMS, EMS and
OHSAS certificates issued, with particular reference to sectors 34 and 35**

In conformity with the international accreditation standards, ACCREDIA issues accreditations for some of the main managements system certification schemes according to the IAF sector (previously EA or EAC sectors) attributable to certified organizations. In accordance with Regulation RG-01-01, ACCREDIA requires that the reference IAF codes are stated on the certificate of conformity to QMS, EMS and OHSAS which the Certification Bodies issue to their clients (§ 4.1).

The outcomes of a number of ACCREDIA assessments with respect to accredited bodies and the samples of consultations of the databank of accredited certifications, managed by ACCREDIA in compliance with the regulations and agreements signed with such bodies, revealed some disparities between one body and another in the identification of some IAF codes. This was the case for (but not only) the activities of testing and calibration laboratories performing technical tests, for organizations granting attestations (SOA) and for environmental consultations which were often attributed to IAF sector 35 instead of IAF sector 34.

It must be remembered that the only reference for a correct attribution of the sectors to the economic activities is IAF ID 1, in revision 2 dated 10/06/2014. This document, since the previous edition of 2010, classifies the 39 IAF codes according to their NACE classification, revision 2, as indicated in the Tables contained in the Annex.

The NACE classification, revision 2, was adopted by the EU Council with Regulation (CE) 1893/2006 dated 20.12.2006. A useful compendium for a detailed identification of the activities can be found in the publication EUROSTAT "NACE rev, 2 - Statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community" (ISBN 978-92-79-04741-1) and, in Italian, in the ISTAT publication "Classificazione delle attività economiche Ateco 2007 derivata dalla Nace Rev. 2" – Classification of economic activities Ateco 2007 derived from NACE rev. 2 (ISBN 978-88-458-1614-7).

In particular, it can be seen that the entire category NACE 71 is classified by the IAF document in sector 34, including the group 71.2 entitled "Tests and technical analyses" in the CE Regulation and in the ISTAT publication and "Technical testing and analysis" in the Eurostat publication. The category therefore includes:

- "Product testing and technical analyses", which includes physical tests, chemical tests on materials and products, acoustic and vibration tests, food hygiene tests, veterinary tests and food production tests, analysis of characteristics, of physical properties and of the performance of materials, qualification and reliability tests and tests of the completed machinery;
- "Quality control and certification of products, processes and systems", which includes the certification of products, periodical road safety tests of motor vehicles and motorbikes (vehicle revision according to the law), certification of the processes of production, certification of quality management systems, environment and safety.

It should also be noted that the NACE category 74.9 entitled "Other professional, scientific and technical activities, not elsewhere classified" is classified by the IAF document in sector 34, which states various types of consultancy including those regarding workplace health and safety (74.90.21), environmental consultancy, consultancy for obtaining patents and for energy saving (74.90.93).

From the above it can therefore be asserted that technical/engineering activities including tests on substances, materials and machines (comprising also measuring instruments), controls and certifications (including attestations of processes) and technical consultancy (including consultancy regarding workplace and environmental health and safety) are classified as IAF sector 34.

From the document IAF ID 1, it can therefore be understood that "Medical analysis laboratories, radiography laboratories and other diagnosis centers" (NACE 86.90.1) are classified as IAF sector 38.

We therefore ask accredited and applicant bodies to update and correct (if necessary) the IAF classification of the certifications which they have issued in accordance with IAF ID 1, creating a plan for this which identifies the certificates which need to be changed and which analyses the qualifications of auditors used; and to update (if necessary) the reference technical areas and the criteria of competence required to evaluate the processes, products and services involved. This plan will be assessed by the ACCREDIA assessment teams during the course of the regular assessments performed on-site. This updating of the certificates should be done as soon as possible, at the most within a year of the issue of the present Circular, that is before the first surveillance at the organizations in question.

Bodies which, after the above analysis has been completed, discover that they have certified an organization for which IAF 34 is applicable but without accreditation for this sector, shall promptly communicate this to ACCREDIA without delay, in order to begin the process for the extension of accreditation.

Accredited bodies are also requested to extend to other scopes of certification the analysis of the criteria for the attribution of sectors, in line with (where necessary) IAF ID 1.

The requirement presented in the ACCREDIA Circular N° DC009DTC026 Milano, dated 30/11/2009, regarding the calibration activities of tachographs in compliance with the Ministerial Decree of 11.03.2015 is superseded by the subsequent IAF document, and that (if necessary) the sector to be indicated, in addition to 29b, is sector 34.

If there are any errors/inaccuracies with regard to the criteria of classification of sectors as described here, if an updating plan has not been prepared, they shall be raised as findings during the accreditation assessment – both on-site and witnessing – and treatment and corrective actions shall be implemented.

With kind regards,

the Department Director
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