

To all accredited certification bodies

To the associations of conformity assessment bodies

OBJECT **Department of Certification and Inspection**
Information circular DC N° 37/2021 - UNI/PdR102:2021
Ethical claims of responsibility for sustainable development –
guidelines for the application of UNI ISO/TS 17033:2020

Foreword

Enterprises have understood this for some time: focusing on sustainability makes business grow and attracts the trust of consumers, who are increasingly aware of social and environmental issues. And ethical claims are the most immediate and effective tool to reach the market.

To satisfy the need to ensure the accuracy and truthfulness of this type of declaration, the international ISO standardization has also introduced the verification and validation of claims among the accredited conformity assessment activities and has developed the standard ISO/IEC 17029, on the basis of which the CABs that implement it are accredited.

A fundamental step forward to ensure the credibility of claims and the transparency of the market was made with the publication in Italian of the international technical standard UNI ISO/TS 17033 "Ethical claims and supporting information - Principles and requirements". The standard establishes the requirements to support organizations in defining, verifying and disseminating accurate and credible ethical claims, which can be verified and validated by CABs accredited to UNI CEI EN ISO / IEC 17029.

Finally, to provide the application guidelines regarding the sustainability of the requirements of UNI ISO/TS 17033, UNI and ACCREDIA, at the invitation of the Italian Quality Infrastructure, have developed the new publicly available specification UNI/PdR 102:2021 "Ethical claims of responsibility for sustainable development - Application guidelines to UNI ISO/TS 17033:2020 ", identifying the elements that an organization must take into consideration when declaring an ethical claim of responsibility for sustainable development.

By means of a structured process, which provides for the assessment of the impacts over generations in terms of sustainable development and the use of reporting tools already widespread on the market, the organization can validate the actions underlying the claim also with reference to the fundamental issues of UNI ISO 26000 and the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda, attracting investors also thanks to the availability of non-financial information.

The ethical claim of responsibility for sustainable development enables the promotion of the demand and supply of the products, services, processes whose characteristics can stimulate, with the involvement of stakeholders according to the principle of materiality, a process of continuous improvement towards sustainability throughout the value chain.

The verification and validation of claims ensures that a statement is truthful and unambiguous, and that it also encompasses all the elements relating to sustainability (therefore the social, environmental and economic aspects) that are most relevant to the reference context. The CAB in question can validate, i.e. confirm the plausibility of the results achieved with the planned actions, and/or verify or confirm the veracity of the results achieved through the actions performed.

1) Verification and validation rules and standards

Please refer to Appendix A "Recommendations for third party conformity assessment to the requirements set out in this UNI/PdR" of the publicly available specification UNI 102:2021.

CABs are recommended not to proceed with the verification/validation of claims that present within them combinations of ethical characteristics of responsibility for sustainable development relating to the product/service and relating to the process/organization.

In order to ensure the comparability of claims based on characteristics of the same type of object of analysis, the distinction must be clear between:

verification/validation relating to ethical claims of responsibility relating exclusively to the ethical characteristics of the logical entity "product/service";

verification/validation relating to ethical claims of responsibility relating exclusively to the ethical characteristics of the logical entity "process/organization".

2) Accreditation process

Accreditation is granted according to:

- UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17029;
- UNI ISO/TS 17033;
- UNI/PdR 102:2021
- specific program (ref. § 8 and Appendix A of UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17029).

Different cases may be presented, based on the ACCREDIA accreditations already held by the CAB applying for accreditation or extension.

The requirements for granting accreditation and extension according to ACCREDIA regulation RG-01 and other applicable ACCREDIA General Regulations remain unchanged.

CABs already accredited to ISO/IEC 17029, do not need to have already issued certificates in this scheme to apply for an extension of accreditation.

If the CAB already possesses accreditations issued by other Accreditation Bodies, a case-by-case assessment must be carried out, based on the applicable EA/IAF MLA agreements.

a) Evaluation of the program

The Accreditation Committee (CdA) and the Directive Council (CD) approved the start of accreditation, V&V scheme, for the validation/verification of ethical claims of responsibility for sustainable development in accordance with UNI/PdR 102:2021. Therefore, for programs or claims based on UNI/PdR 102:2021 it will not be necessary to submit information to the Accreditation Committee or Directive Council. Before proceeding with the accreditation activity, it is necessary to examine the application for recognition of the program (to be completed using the module DR-02).

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| Examination of the application for recognition of the program. | |
| Acceptance of the application and document review | € 2000.00 + VAT, including costs (back office or direct meetings) |

b) Accreditation assessments

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| A | CAB not yet accredited to any accreditation standard | Document review of 1 day (to be done, at least partially, in remote mode); On-site assessment at the CAB's premises of 4 days; At least 1 witness assessment of a duration in line with the control program decided by the CAB. |
| B | CAB not yet accredited to UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17029 but accredited to other accreditation standards | Document review of 1 day (to be done, at least partially, in remote mode); On-site assessment at the CAB's premises of 2 days; At least 1 witness assessment of a duration in line with the control program decided by the CAB. |
| E | CAB not yet accredited to UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17029 but accredited to ISO 14065 | Document review of 1 day (to be done, at least partially, in remote mode); On-site assessment at the CAB's premises of 1 day; At least 1 witness assessment of a duration in line with the control program decided by the CAB. |

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| C | <p>CAB accredited to UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17029;</p> <p>Extension to ISO/TS 17033 and/or UNI/PdR 102:2021</p> | <p>Document review of 1 day (to be done, at least partially, in remote mode);</p> <p>On-site assessment at the CAB's premises of 0.5 day;</p> <p>At least 1 witness assessment of a duration in line with the control program decided by the CAB.</p> |
| D | <p>CAB already accredited to ISO/IEC 17029, UNI ISO/TS 17033 and UNI/PdR 102:2021;</p> <p>Extension to other programs</p> | <p>For every new program, document review of 1 day (to be done, at least partially, in remote mode);</p> <p>Case-by-case analysis of the planning (where necessary) of 1 witness assessment of a duration in line with the control program decided by the CAB;</p> <p>Possibility of a case-by-case analysis of the application of the flexible scope (see Technical Regulation RT-37).</p> |

For the application for accreditation/extension and the related document review, in addition to what is provided for in the applicable modules of the "Application for Accreditation", it is necessary to send to ACCREDIA:

- a) The program (ref. § 8 and Appendix A of UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17029) developed relating to the claim/objects of verification/validation;
- b) Criteria for the qualification of the personnel assigned for all the phases included in the verification/validation process;
- c) CV and evidence of the qualifications of staff in charge for all the phases included in the verification/validation process;
- d) Documents/check-lists/reports prepared by the CAB for recording the phases of the process of verification/validation;
- e) Instructions/procedures/regulations prepared by the CAB for the specific description of the phases of the verification/validation process;
- f) Fac-simile of contractual documents with the organization making the claim;
- g) Fac-simile of the statement of validation and verification issued by the CAB;
- h) List of the validation and verification statements already issued and of the upcoming validation and verification activities (data necessary for planning the witness assessment).

For the witness assessments ACCREDIA reserves the right to evaluate on a case-by-case basis the suitability of the organizations and of the audit teams set up for accreditation purposes and for subsequent surveillance activities.

1) Maintenance of accreditation

An annual assessment shall be performed at the premises of the CAB. The duration of this assessment will be established on the basis of the number of verified/validated claims during the previous year.

ACCREDIA reserves the right to evaluate case-by- case the sampling by means of a witness assessment during the accreditation cycle of all programs for which the CAB is accredited.

If, due to the type of verified/validated claim, it is not possible to plan the witness assessments, the programs will be sampled only at the CAB's offices.

With kind regards,

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Dott. Emanuele Riva

Director of the Dep. of
Certification and Inspection