

To all accredited/applicant Certification Bodies PRD scheme  
To the associations of conformity assessment bodies  
To all ACCREDIA assessors and technical experts DC department

**SUBJECT**                    **Certification and Inspection Department**  
**Informative circular DC N° 18/2022 - Circular Certification™ -**  
**Corporate rev. 1 dated 05-05-2022**

## **Introduction**

The scheme Circular Certification™ - Corporate constitutes a metric tool to measure to what extent a production or tertiary organization adheres to the principles of the circular economy, referring to the following pillars:

- Use of sustainable inputs;
- Adoption of “product as a service” business models;
- Use of sharing platforms;
- Actions to extend the useful life of its products;
- Recovery and recycling activities.

A detailed system of indicators divided into specific areas of analysis makes it possible to measure on a scale from zero to one hundred the ability of the organization to make the best use of all available resources, both throughout the phases of its business process but also in the management of partnerships, involving clients and suppliers.

The certified organization is issued with a mark representing the level of circularity achieved in a range from one to five.

The scheme is voluntary, wide-ranging and it anticipates all international regulatory instruments currently being developed, enabling the most virtuous organizations to become increasingly aware of the integrated use of resources and of all the useful interactions to reduce their use and impact.

Adopting circular economy models generates long-term competitiveness and the effectiveness of all the actions introduced is measured through the improvement of the index. At the same investment cost, the company is encouraged to choose the solutions that generate a better index.

Many choices, however, do not have to involve investment costs but adopt a cultural and organizational change, as well as stimulating and disseminating the principles of circularity among all their stakeholders.

This scheme is part of a broader program to measure the adoption of circular economy models: the program Circular TM Certification™ .

In addition to the present one, the program includes a scheme for measuring the level of circularity of products and one for measuring the level of energy circularity of a specific site.

Each organization can use these schemes to measure itself and adopt virtuous behaviours that are easily measurable through the metrics used by the scheme.

Similarly, the metric can be used to evaluate its suppliers, in the awareness that the adoption of circularity is strengthened when expressed by the entire value chain and constitutes a criterion for choosing long-term economic partnerships.

The mark which is granted to all certified organizations becomes an effective tool in the context of these partnerships in providing tools for immediate visibility and enhancement of how much the organizations themselves pay attention to the issue of circularity.

For further information see the website [www.circularevolution.org](http://www.circularevolution.org) or send an email to [amministrazione@circularevolution.org](mailto:amministrazione@circularevolution.org)

## 1) Rules of certification

Accreditation standard	UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17065 :2012
Certification standard	Circular Certification Corporate rev. 1.0
Competence criteria of the audit team	As reported in the regulation of the scheme Circular Certification - Corporate rev. 1.0 dated 05.05.2022
Competence criteria of the decision-maker	As reported in the regulation of the scheme Circular Certification - Corporate rev. 1.0 dated 05.05.2022
Audit times and periodicity	As reported in the regulation of the scheme Circular Certification - Corporate rev. 1.0 dated 05.05.2022

## 2) Process of accreditation

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

The requirements of RG-01 and RG-01-03 for the granting of accreditation and extension remain unchanged.

Bodies already accredited to ISO/IEC 17065 do not need to have already issued certificates in this scheme to apply for an extension of accreditation.

The accreditation certificate does not specify the relevant accreditation sectors.

In the event that the CB already possesses accreditations issued by other bodies, a case-by-case assessment must be performed, based on the applicable EA/IAF MLA agreements.

<b>A</b>	CB already accredited to the standard <b>ISO/IEC 17065:2012</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Document review of 1 day (to be performed, at least partly, by remote mode).</li><li>• 1 Witness assessment</li></ul>
<b>B</b>	CB not yet accredited to the standard <b>ISO/IEC 17065:2012</b> but accredited for other accreditation schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Document review of 1 day (to be performed, at least partly, by remote mode).</li><li>• Assessment of 2 days performed at the CB's premises</li><li>• 1 Witness assessment</li></ul>
<b>C</b>	CB not yet accredited to any accreditation schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Document review of 1 day (to be performed, at least partly, by remote mode).</li><li>• Assessment of 4 days performed at the CB's premises</li><li>• 1 Witness assessment</li></ul>

For the documentation to be submitted to ACCREDIA for the document review, it is necessary to refer to the current revision of the following documents:

- DA-00- Application for accreditation;
- DA-01- Application for accreditation for certification bodies.
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## 3) Maintenance of Accreditation

For the maintenance of accreditation, throughout the accreditation cycle, except for special situations (e.g. management of complaints and feedbacks, changes made to the certification scheme, changes in the personnel structure of the CB, involvement in legal cases ), the following assessments shall be conducted:

- if the CB has issued less than 50 certificates in the certification scheme, 1 witness assessment and 1 on-site assessment specific to this scheme shall be performed. In the case of a small number of certificates (<10), it is possible to perform only 1 assessment in the cycle (on-site or witness);
- if the CB has issued between 51 and 200 certificates in the certification scheme, 2 witness assessments and 1 on-site assessment for this scheme shall be performed;
- if the CB has issued more than 200 certificates in the scheme, 2 witness assessments and 2 on-site assessments for this scheme shall be performed.

In all cases, it is confirmed that ACCREDIA shall conduct 1 assessment every year at the premises of the Certification Body to assess compliance with the standard ISO/IEC 17065.

With kind regards

**Dott. Emanuele Riva**

Director Department  
Certification and Inspection