

INFORMATIVE CIRCULAR Ref. DC2023OC012

DATE Milan, 13-02-2023

To all CABs accredited for the GHG and EPD schemes
To the associations of conformity assessment bodies

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SUBJECT **Certification and Inspection Department**
Informative circular DC N° 44/2022 - Accreditation for the
Verification and Validation scheme of environmental information.

Introduction

The publication of the standards ISO 17029:2019 and ISO 14065:2020 has created a new panorama for all verifications of environmental information. The IAF Resolution 2019-19 foresees the transition of the previous activities of verification and validation of environmental information under this single accreditation framework.

Current environmental information schemes (e.g. GHG and EPD) are set to migrate to this new general accreditation scheme.

The VBs (Verification and Validation Bodies), can continue to be accredited according to ISO 14065:2013 until December 1, 2023.

This document describes the framework of the scheme applicable to all environmental information and is to be used both for ex-novo accreditations and in conjunction with the circulars of the various specific schemes (e.g. GHG and EPD), integrated with the other standards of the applicable schemes (e.g. UNI EN ISO 14064-3, AVR).

References:

- IAF Resolution 2019-19 – Transition Arrangements for ISO 14065:202X;
- IAF Resolution 2021-22 – IAF Validation & Verification MLA Structure.

1. ACTIVITIES OF CERTIFICATION BODIES

1.1 Preparation of a transition plan

The VB (Verification and Validation Body), after having analysed the requirements of the standard ISO 17029 and the contents of the 2020 version of the standard ISO 14065, must prepare a transition plan, to demonstrate that it applies the new requirements based on the expiry dates established and to give assurance of:

- a. update in accordance with the new requirements, as a minimum, of the following processes:
 - commercial;
 - planning;
 - verification and validation;
 - management of competences;
 - communication to the client of verification and validation attestations (VV).
- b. train the personnel involved in the VV process by verifying the results with respect to the achievement of an adequate level of competence.

To facilitate the transition process, an example of how a transition plan can be structured is attached to this circular.

This plan must be sent to ACCREDIA by May 31, 2023.

1.2 Recommendations for managing new contracts and for planning and implementing the transition process of active contracts

Starting from the date of completion of the transition by the VB, the VB shall:

- for new VV contracts, refer to the requirements of ISO 17029 and ISO 14065:2020 and the applicable VV program;
- for active contracts, ensure that the validation/verification activities are conducted in compliance with all the requirements of the standards ISO 17029 and ISO 14065:2020 and the applicable VV program (e.g. updating and/or integration of the active contract and/or issuing a new contract).

2. ACCREDITATION ACTIVITIES

2.1 New applications for Validation/Verification accreditation

ACCREDIA will not accept any new Validation/Verification accreditation application that refers to the accreditation standards ISO 14065:2003 (for GHG) and ISO 17065:2013 (for EPD), after May 31, 2023.

2.2 Bodies already accredited according to ISO 14065:2013 (GHG) and ISO 17065:2013 (for EPD) – transition management

Starting from the date of publication of this Circular and following receipt of the transition plan sent by the VB, ACCREDIA will verify the adaptation of the processes of the VB to the new standards (assessment of transition) with a document assessment lasting 1 day. In the case of EPD-accredited bodies only, an additional day of on-site assessment is required.

Unless otherwise specified, ACCREDIA will proceed with the document assessment performed remotely or during the surveillance or renewal visits as part of the normal accreditation cycle, which will be dedicated to the assessment of the implementation of the new requirements of ISO 17029 and ISO 14065:2020.

Type of accreditation	Document verification of the transition	On-site verification of the transition
GHG (ISO 14065:2013)	1 day	No additional day
EPD	1 day	1 day
GHG + EPD	1 day	No additional day

In cases where the transition assessment is performed concurrently with the GHG renewal document review, the time allocated to the transition assessment phase alone is reduced to 0.5 days.

The ACCREDIA audit team will evaluate the transition plan by gathering evidence relating to the completion of the actions foreseen in the plan such as, for example, the completion of the training courses on the new standard for all the personnel concerned and the adaptation of checklists/guidelines/instructions which the VB has been provided with for management of the processes.

VBs must ensure that, before managing the VV files in accordance with the requirements of the standards ISO 17029 and ISO 14065:2020, their directly involved personnel (sales personnel, planners, verifiers/validators, independent reviewers), are trained, to their level of competence, in accordance with the requirements of the standards ISO 17029 and ISO 14065:2020.

Any findings relating to the transition process of the VB's accreditation that emerge during the transition assessment must be managed by the VB which must make the relative implementation/closure records available, before the ACCREDIA management can propose to the Sector Accreditation Committee a recommendation for the transition of accreditation to the standards ISO 17029 and ISO 14065:2020.

If the outcome of this assessment is negative, it may be necessary to carry out a further assessment activity, which could be, based on the nature of the failures found, a supplementary document review, or an on-site assessment or a witness assessment.

With kind regards,

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