

TECHNICAL CIRCULAR**Ref. DC2026SPM143****Milan, 15-10-2026**

To all accredited and applicant Certification Bodies

To the Associations of Conformity Assessment Bodies

To all Assessors/Experts of the DC Department

At their offices

SUBJECT: Technical Circular DC No. 40/2026 – Provisions concerning the transition of Certification Bodies' accreditations from UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17024:2012 to UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17024:2026

On 31 March 2026, the International Standard UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17024:2026, applicable to Personnel Certification Bodies, was published. The standard replaces UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17024:2012, which will remain valid for accreditation purposes during the transition period.

The main changes introduced by the 2026 edition of UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17024 include, among others, new requirements concerning the use of artificial intelligence in the certification process, as well as updates regarding management review, internal audits, documented procedures and processes, prerequisites for certification, the management system, risks and opportunities, the accuracy and consistency of translations, and the definition of invigilation.

Pursuant to document Global ACI-TECH-3-TR 2029-03-31 (M), effective from 9 September 2026, a transition period of **3 years** from the publication date of UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17024:2026 is established.

At the end of the transition period, therefore after **31 March 2029**, accreditations granted against the 2012 edition of UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17024 will no longer be valid unless they have transitioned to the new edition.

New Accreditation and Extension Applications

ACCREDIA will begin assessing Certification Bodies against the new edition of UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17024 from **1 December 2026**. Accordingly, after that date all new accreditation applications shall be submitted against UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17024:2026.

Extension applications will be accepted against the edition of the standard for which the applicant Body's accreditation certificate is currently valid, unless the Body has already asked ACCREDIA to initiate the transition process.

Where an extension application predates the start of the transition process under the arrangements set out in this circular, but the operational activities relating to that application take place after the accreditation transition

has been obtained, the extension process shall be updated while in progress and aligned with the new edition of the standard.

Certification Bodies already accredited to UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17024:2012 – Transition management

ACCREDIA will assess the transition plan, the relevant documentation, the necessary evidence of implementation and any other information deemed necessary as part of its ordinary assessment activities.

No on-site or witness assessments are required for this transition. However, ACCREDIA reserves the right to arrange additional activities in relation to changes declared by the Body (e.g. the use and degree of intrusiveness of AI systems), or in exceptional circumstances (e.g. suspended accreditation).

All Bodies already accredited under UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17024:2012 shall prepare a **transition plan** and declare to ACCREDIA their readiness for transition by using the **declaration template** attached to this document.

The transition plan shall be submitted together with the supporting documentation and shall include, as a minimum, the activities necessary to:

- identify the changes between the new and previous editions of the standard;
- analyse the impact of the changes on the relevant activities and processes, identifying the actions needed to ensure conformity, including the management system, documents and IT tools;
- implement the required actions;
- ensure that personnel affected by the changes are trained and competent with regard to the revised edition of the standard and the transition process.

The declaration of readiness for transition, together with the transition plan, shall be submitted to ACCREDIA as soon as possible and in any event no later than **31 March 2028**.

For the assessment of the documentation, ACCREDIA will conduct a specific document review lasting 1 m/d, charged in accordance with the current TA-00 Fee Schedule. Any follow-up activities that do not prevent completion of the transition process may be carried out as part of the ordinary scheduled surveillance activities.

The transition of Certification Bodies shall be completed by **31 March 2029**. ACCREDIA will take the transition decision on the basis of the outcome of the transition document review and it will preferably be approved by the CSA-CI, with subsequent confirmation by the CSA-AR.

Where an accredited Body does not intend to transition to the new edition, it shall inform ACCREDIA as soon as possible. In such cases:

- the accreditation will be withdrawn at the end of the transition period;
- the Body shall nevertheless inform the certified persons concerned by **31 March 2028**.

Management of personnel certifications

Certification Bodies shall complete the transition of certified persons according to the certification validity date, and this may be done as part of the normal recertification cycle. From 31 March 2029, initial certifications and recertifications shall be issued exclusively against UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17024:2026.

New certification schemes

If accreditation activities for new certification schemes are initiated after **1 December 2026**, unless otherwise indicated by the competent Authority or Scheme Owner, extension applications/requests to initiate accreditation activities will be accepted against the edition of the standard for which the applicant Body's accreditation certificate is currently valid.

We remain at your disposal for any clarification or further information and send you our kind regards.

Dr Emanuele Riva

Director

Department Certification and Inspection

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EMANUELE RIVA
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ANNEX TO CIRCULAR No. 40/2026

Declaration by the Certification Body accredited to ISO/IEC 17024:2026

The undersigned (name indicated below) declares that, as of the date of this declaration, the Certification Body (registered name indicated below):

1. has implemented the changes required under this transition;
2. complies with the requirements necessary for transition;
3. is able to provide evidence of implementation.

The undersigned further declares:

- to be aware that ACCREDIA will review implementation of the transition on the basis of this declaration during the subsequent assessment(s);
- to be aware that a false declaration, or one that cannot be supported by evidence, constitutes a breach of the Accreditation Regulations and entails a request for corrections and corrective actions. If these matters are not adequately resolved within the established timeframes, this may constitute grounds for suspension or withdrawal;
- to have completed the following activities:
 - a. Transition plan;
 - b. Review of the documentation supporting the transition and/or the revised requirements;
 - c. Determination of the competence required in relation to the revised standard and availability of a sufficient number of personnel involved in the relevant assessment activities to support the revised certification programme;
 - d. Availability of a process for determining the duration of the assessment supporting the revised certification programme (where applicable);
 - e. Availability of a process for managing control of certifications against the revised standard, including (a) the issue of accredited certificates only after ACCREDIA's transition decision and (b) management of the appropriate expiry dates for previously issued certificates.

The undersigned also attaches to this declaration a detailed report on any introduction of AI systems into the certification process, in accordance with the requirements of the revised standard.

Certification Body:	
Legal representative:	
Date:	
Signature:	