



Accredited Once
Accepted Everywhere



WHY USE AN ACCREDITED MANAGEMENT SYSTEM CERTIFICATION BODY

Third-party management systems certification is a frequently specified requirement to operate in the global marketplace. It can demonstrate the effectiveness of your management system, conformity to a code of practice, or compliance with a standard or regulatory requirements. It can also deliver internal business improvement.

Why use an accredited certification body?

Selecting the right certification body to carry out your certification can be a difficult decision. A certification body that has been accredited by an accreditation body that is a signatory to the IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) has proven that it complies with best practice and it is competent to deliver a consistently reliable and impartial service that meets the appropriate internationally recognised standard.



WHAT SHOULD I CONSIDER WHEN SELECTING A CERTIFICATION BODY?

When selecting an organisation to certify your management system, there are various factors to consider, including whether the certification body is accredited.

Accreditation is the independent evaluation of certification bodies against the standard ISO/IEC 17021-1: *Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems — Part 1: Requirements* to ensure their impartiality, competence and consistency. The standard sets out the principles and requirements for the competence, consistency and impartiality of bodies providing audit and certification of management systems.

In many countries, accreditation is not mandatory. It should be noted that the fact that a certification body is not accredited does not, by itself, mean that it is not a reputable organization. However, many certification bodies choose to seek accreditation in order to obtain an independent confirmation of their competence and independence.

When selecting an accredited certification body, you should consider factors such as:

- Does its accreditation scope include the standard or scheme you are interested in?
- Is the standard or scheme included in the IAF MLA, and is the certification body accredited by an IAF MLA signatory recognized for that standard or scheme?

IAF MLA signatories have been peer evaluated to ensure that they comply fully with both relevant standards/scheme documentation and IAF requirements. Accreditation by an IAF MLA signatory can ensure the ongoing competence and monitoring of certification body staff that confirms technically competent people have the relevant sector knowledge and skills to carry out a satisfactory audit.

Find out more about the IAF MLA by watching our informative video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=km8eOziPs-Q>



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF USING AN ACCREDITED CERTIFICATION BODY?

There are many reasons why you should use the services of an accredited certification body:

- Reduce the risk of your procurement process by providing confidence in the competence and independence of the accredited certification body for their specific scope of accreditation.
- Win new business particularly since the use of accredited conformity assessment services is increasingly a requirement of specifiers in both the public and private sector.
- Gain access to overseas markets since certificates issued by bodies that are accredited by an IAF MLA signatory are recognised and accepted throughout the world by IAF MLA signatories.
- Help to identify best practice since the certification body is required to have appropriate knowledge of your business sector.
- Offer market differentiation and leadership by showing to others credible evidence of good practice.
- Demonstrate due diligence in the event of legal action.
- Demonstrate to potential and existing customers that your management systems are effective.
- Reduce paperwork and increase efficiency by reducing the necessity for multiple audits as the certificate should be accepted by multiple customers.

While Quality Management System certification (to **ISO 9001**) accounts for a large proportion of work undertaken by certification bodies, a number of other management system standards are covered under the IAF MLA, for example:



IAF has also endorsed a number of management system certification schemes as sub-scopes under the IAF MLA. View the full list of IAF MLA main scopes and sub-scopes at <https://iaf.nu/en/scopes/>.

Find out more about management system standards here: www.iso.org/management-system-standards.html

To find out if your country has an accreditation body, visit the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) website at www.iaf.nu and use the IAF MLA signatories list to identify an accreditation body in your country or region.

Accreditation bodies in most countries publish lists or directories of the certification bodies they have accredited, which often include contact details and scope.

Accreditation is the independent evaluation of certification bodies against recognised standards to ensure their impartiality, competence and consistent operation.

The purpose of the IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) is to ensure mutual recognition of accredited certification between signatories to the MLA, and subsequently acceptance of accredited certification in many markets based on one accreditation.

Accreditation and the IAF MLA help regulators meet their own legislated responsibilities by providing a globally recognised system to accept accredited certification.

HOW DO I FIND AN ACCREDITED CERTIFICATION BODY?



IAF CertSearch

The global database for accredited management system certifications

IAF CertSearch has been established by the International Accreditation Forum and its members so accredited certifications from around the world can be validated. IAF CertSearch is a global database where users can search and validate the status of accredited certification issued by a certification body which has been accredited by an IAF signatory member accreditation body under main scope ISO/IEC 17021-1.

<https://www.iafcertsearch.org/>

Learn more about how to check the validity of a certificate by watching our informative video here: <https://youtu.be/xKGbS9uh2v8>

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT IAF AND ACCREDITATION

The International Accreditation Forum (IAF) is a global association of accreditation bodies, conformity assessment body associations and other organisations involved in conformity assessment activities in a variety of fields, including certification of management systems, products, services, processes and persons, and validation and verification.

IAF Members work together on a worldwide basis to achieve common trade facilitation objectives by developing the principles and practices for the conduct of conformity assessment that will deliver the confidence needed for market acceptance.

IAF promotes the worldwide acceptance of certificates of conformity issued by certification bodies and statements issued by validation and verification bodies accredited by an IAF MLA signatory and seeks to add value for all stakeholders through its activities and programs.



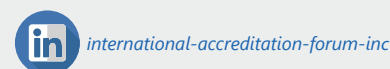
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