



International Organization for Standardization



International Accreditation Forum

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## **Accreditation Auditing Practices Group** **Guidance on:**

### ***Auditing the CAB's Rules governing Clients' Statements of Management System Certification on Product Packaging or in Accompanying Information***

This paper provides examples which elaborate the expectation of rules that CABs used for governing the use of statements regarding certified management systems on product packaging or in accompanying product information as outlined in ISO/IEC 17021-1. These statements are not to imply that the product, process or service is certified by any means.

According to ISO/IEC 17021-1, product packaging can “be removed without the product disintegrating or being damaged”; while accompanying information can be “separately available or easily detachable” (e.g. labels on clothing, food or chemicals, or specification sheets) from product.

The CAB's rules need to define the contents and its use of the statements which may be applied by their clients to product packaging or in accompanying information. This may include standard text information, size, color, and any conditions for use.

AB assessors should seek to verify the effectiveness of the CAB's rules by:

1. Evaluating the CAB's rules to assure that the statements contain and / or reference to:

- identification (e.g. brand or name) of the certified client
- the type of management system (e.g. quality, environment) and the applicable standard;
- the certification body issuing the certificate

***It is not allowed to use the management system certification mark on a product or product packaging.***

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[www.iaf.nu](http://www.iaf.nu); [www.iso.org/tc176/AccreditationAuditingPracticesGroup](http://www.iso.org/tc176/AccreditationAuditingPracticesGroup)

2. Verifying that the CAB has legally enforceable agreements to govern the content and its use of the statements as required by ISO/IEC 17021-1. It is advisable for CABs to approve the contents and the use of such statements by their clients prior to their application to the product packaging or in accompanying information.

3. Reviewing the use of the statements by:

- verifying the statement on product packaging or in accompanying information prior to distribution;
- verifying records regarding initial generation (if applicable) or changes of product packaging and accompanying information, and complaints about misuse of statements in relation to certification.

An example of statement conforming to the requirements of ISO/IEC 17021-1 is as follows:

*This product was manufactured (or packaged, etc.) by ABC Ltd. whose quality management system (or EMS, or FSMS) is certified by Certification Body XYZ to ISO 9001:2015 (or ISO 14001:2015, or ISO 22000:2005)*

Some examples of improper statements regarding Management System certification are shown below:

- **No certified client's name**  
Example: *This product was manufactured under a quality management system (or EMS, or FSMS) certified by Certification Body XYZ to ISO 9001:2015 (or ISO 14001:2015, or ISO 22000:2005)*
- **No applicable Management System standard (e.g. ISO 9001:2015)**  
Example: *This product was manufactured (or packaged, etc.) by ABC Ltd. whose quality management system (or EMS, or FSMS) is certified by Certification Body XYZ*
- **No CAB name**  
Example: *This product was manufactured (or packaged, etc.) by ABC Ltd. whose quality management system (or EMS, or FSMS) is certified to ISO 9001:2015 (or ISO 14001:2015, or ISO 22000:2005)*
- **Misleading Information**  
Example: *This product was certified by Certification Body XYZ to ISO 9001:2015 (or ISO 14001:2015, or ISO 22000:2005) – This statement implies the product is certified to the mentioned standard.*
- **Use of CAB's management system certification mark on product packaging or in accompanying information**

Example:




*This product was manufactured (or packaged, etc.) by ABC Ltd. whose quality management system is certified by Certification Body XYZ to ISO 9001:2015*

- **Use on a Test Report**

Example:

## Test Report



XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXX

XX
XX
XX
XX
XX

*This product was tested by ABC Ltd. whose quality management system (or EMS, or FSMS) is certified by Certification Body XYZ. to ISO 9001:2015 (or ISO 14001:2015, or ISO 22000:2005)*

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For further information on the Accreditation Auditing Practices Group, please refer to the paper: *Introduction to the Accreditation Auditing Practices Group*

Feedback from users will be used by the *Accreditation Auditing Practices Group* to determine whether additional guidance documents should be developed, or if these current ones should be revised.

Comments on the papers or presentations can be sent to the following email address: [charles.corrie@bsigroup.com](mailto:charles.corrie@bsigroup.com).

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