

**IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE NEW INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017 CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT – REQUIREMENTS FOR BODIES PROVIDING AUDIT AND CERTIFICATION OF MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS - PART 3: COMPETENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR AUDITING AND CERTIFICATION OF QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The new international standard ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017, Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems, Part 3: competence requirements for auditing and certification of quality management systems have been published in **March 2017**. This standard cancels and replaces ISO/IEC TS 17021-3:2013, which has been technically revised.

It incorporates new requirements regarding competence of personnel involved in third-party certification auditing of quality management systems. **Resolution 2017-17 was passed by the IAF General Assembly in Vancouver, Canada on 30 October 2017 endorsing ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017 as a normative reference and a 2 years transition period for the implementation of ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017 from the date of its publication.**

Based on the **IAF Resolution for the Transition of Management System Accreditation to ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017**, MAURITAS has elaborated the following course of action:

**2. Accreditation Bodies**

MAURITAS should ensure that its assessors have achieved the necessary competence before undertaking assessments of any Certification Body to ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017.

**3. Certification Bodies**

**3.1 Certification Bodies applying for accreditation**

MAURITAS has adopted the new ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017 as part of the accreditation criteria for the ISO 9001 certification scheme. As from **April 2018**, MAURITAS will start assessing against the new ISO/IEC 17021-3: 2017. MAURITAS will evaluate the operations and planning of accredited Certification Bodies to ensure that full implementation will be in place before **June 2018**.

**3.2 Transition and Implementation**

Certification Body shall submit a satisfactory transition plan by **January 2018**. Assessment by MAURITAS should cover a Certification Body's transition plans for effectively managing its transition. The examination of these changes to address the new standard should enable MAURITAS to undertake assessment against the requirements of ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017, in addition to ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015.

**4. Visits by MAURITAS**

Additional visits by MAURITAS to assess solely against ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017 are not normally required. The implementation should be verified during normal scheduled surveillance activities. Accredited Certification Bodies will be given the full transition time frame to address and close non-conformities raised in accordance to this policy. Non-conformities shall be closed by **end of March 2019**.

**5. End of transition and Accreditation Certificate Issue**

**Two years** after publication of the new standard, all accredited Certification Bodies are expected to be in full conformance with ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017. Certification Bodies not conforming with ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017 after the end of the transition period will be required to undergo suspension. For applications

received after the publication of this policy, the certification body will be required to demonstrate compliance with ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017 before granting accreditation.