KENYA ACCREDITATION SERVICE


1. Introduction

1.2 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' was published in March 2017 were published on March 2017 to replace ISO/IEC 17021-3: 2017 which was subject to systematic review and revision by ISO/TC 176 and CASCO. ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017 replaces ISO/IEC TS 17021-3: 2013 after being technically revised and complements the existing requirements of ISO/IEC 17021-1.

1.2 Resolution 2014-12 was passed by the IAF General Assembly in Vancouver on 15 October 2014 endorsing a 2 year transition period for the implementation of ISO/IEC CASCO standards. This means that all Management Systems Certification Bodies will need to have successfully transferred to the new standard within 2 years from the publication date, i.e. March 2019.

1.3 This document describes the transitional requirements concerning the assessments against the ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017. It details how accreditation will be done in line with the new standard and the transition of the already accredited Management Systems Certification Bodies to this new standard. These will result in the need for Certification Bodies (CBs) to implement changes within their management systems and processes in order to maintain KENAS accreditation in the future.

1.4 KENAS will be ready to carry out assessments as per ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017 by 31st December 2017.

2. Transition of KENAS QMS Accredited Certification Bodies

KENAS assessments against the new standard will be performed as much from 1st January 2018 within the planned Surveillance Assessment. KENAS has provided the transitional provisions for the implementation of ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017 as follows:

2.1 New applications for accreditation:

2.1.1 All new QMS applications received from 1st January 2018 shall be against ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 and ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017.

2.2 Existing accreditations:

For the existing accreditation KENAS shall apply the following transitional provision for the effective implementation of ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017:

2.2.1 Transitional assessments shall consist of at least an evaluation of the Certification Body’s (CB) documented system in line with the new ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017
2.2.3 KENAS will levy a charge for the document review in line with KENAS fees structure.

2.2.4 These transitional assessments will be performed as far as possible within the planned Surveillance Assessments in order to avoid extra costs for the CB.

2.2.5 All surveillance and Reaccreditation Assessment scheduled to take place after 1st January 2018 shall be against ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 and ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017.

3. Preparation time

3.1 All accredited and applicant CBs shall provide KENAS with revised management system documentation addressing all new requirements of ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017 and Cross reference matrix of internal documents against the Normative standard, prior to their next assessment.

3.2 All accredited certification bodies shall submit their transition action plan to KENAS by no later than 31st January 2018. The action plan must demonstrate how the CB has analysed the new standard and its implications to their management system and operations. The action plan shall also indicate how the CB will effectively implement all the changes needed to comply before the transition date.

3.3 As a minimum the plan should include:
   i) All specific actions to be taken to implement the changes;
   ii) The timelines for completion of actions;
      a. Date when the documented system will be revised
      b. Date when the revised competence process will be used for all new QMS auditors
      c. Date when current QMS auditors will be re-evaluated using the revised competence process
      d. Date when other QMS personnel will be re-evaluated using the revised competence process
      e. Any other actions and dates pertinent to the CB’s management system
   iii) The persons responsible for the actions;
   iv) Monitoring of progress, implementation, effectiveness and completion of the actions.

3.4 All records and documented changes in line with the new standard will be assessed during the scheduled surveillance visits and records shall demonstrate the following as a minimum:
   i) The internal audit and management review findings are aimed at ensuring effective implementation of ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017;
   ii) The actions in the CB’s established transition plan are adhered to and monitored to ensure timely transition;
   iii) The necessary changes made to documentation are implemented; and iv) All changes are implemented in all fixed-office locations/branches, where applicable.
4 Implementation
4.1 After March, 2019 all management system documentation must demonstrate compliance with the new 2017 standard in order to maintain KENAS accreditation. All current KENAS accreditation certificates based on ISO/IEC TS 17021-3:2013 will be deemed to have expired.
4.2 By 31st January 2019 the CBs that have not demonstrated full compliance with ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017 will have their accreditation suspended.

5.0 Assessment by KENAS
5.1 Assessment activities will form part of the transition process and these will take place within the planned assessment: this will be done during the Office Assessment to confirm whether CB’s clients are implementing the requirements of these new standards.
5.2 Once the CB has demonstrated successful transition and effective implementation of ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017 KENAS shall forward the CB details for the decision to be made by KENAS Accreditation Committee.

6.0 Non Conformities
6.1 All Findings (CARs and comments) raised against the 2013 standard requirements during assessments conducted during the transition period shall require a response to KENAS within 30 days of the assessment.
6.2 All findings raised against ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017 during the two (2) year transitional period prior to 31st December 2018 shall be handled as detailed observations, where submission of corrective actions to KENAS will not be required;
6.3 All findings raised against ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017 for the transitional period between 31st December 2017 and 31st December 2018 shall be handled as non-conformances, where the submission of corrective actions to KENAS will be required;
6.4 The certification body has the opportunity to introduce corrective actions prior to 31st December 2018, and report this to KENAS. KENAS will conduct the follow-up assessment to verify these actions and the assessment team will advise KENAS Accreditation Committee at the latest on 31st December 2018.
6.6 If KENAS has not been able to take a positive decision regarding granting accreditation for ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017, as a result of non-closure of nonconformities, the accreditation against ISO/IEC 17021-3:2013 will be suspended at 31st December 2018.

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