Schedule for Implementation of ISO 50003: 2021 in Accreditation of Energy Management System Certification Bodies

The International Accreditation Forum (IAF) has published IAF MD24 'Transition Requirements for ISO 50003: 2021' endorsing a 30-month transition period for the implementation of ISO 50003: 2021. As the new version of ISO 50003 was published in May 2021, certification bodies (CBs) shall use the new version of ISO 50003 for all clients of Energy Management System (EnMS) certification no later than 30 November 2023 [Note 1].

For details, please refer to IAF website at
https://iaf.nu/iaf_system/uploads/documents/IAF_MD_24_Issue_1_Publication_Version.pdf

ISO 50003 is intended to be used in conjunction with ISO/IEC 17021-1: 2015. In this document, accreditation based on ISO 50003: 2014 refers to accreditation based on ISO/IEC 17021-1: 2015 in conjunction with ISO 50003: 2014; accreditation based on ISO 50003: 2021 refers to accreditation based on ISO/IEC 17021-1: 2015 in conjunction with ISO 50003: 2021.

1. CBs applying for initial accreditation for EnMS certification (applicable for application from a new CB or an existing CB without being accredited for EnMS certification).

Application for accreditation
HKAS will accept applications for accreditation based on ISO 50003: 2021 starting from 28 February 2022. Application for accreditation based on ISO 50003: 2014 will no longer be accepted after 31 May 2022.

Initial applications based on ISO 50003: 2014
Nonconformities against the requirements of ISO 50003: 2014 will be raised as 'Nonconformities (NCs)'. Obvious nonconformities against the requirements of ISO 50003: 2021 will be raised as 'Recommendations' [Note 2]. Accreditation to ISO 50003: 2014 will be granted when the applicant CB has rectified all critical and significant NCs to the satisfaction of HKAS Executive and has committed to rectify all minor NCs prior to the next reassessment.

To ensure a smooth transition to ISO 50003: 2021, all certification bodies accredited to ISO 50003: 2014 shall prepare a transition plan with specified time frame for conducting a gap analysis; updating relevant documentation; implementing the updated requirements in accordance with ISO 50003: 2021; and the proposed schedule for the transition assessment. The transition plan shall be submitted to HKAS Executive within one month from the date of obtaining accreditation.

If accreditation cannot be granted to an applicant CB within one year after the date of receipt of the application, HKAS Executive will suspend processing the application. The applicant CB shall implement all the requirements of ISO 50003: 2021 (and submit the required application fee as appropriate) before HKAS Executive restarts the accreditation process and a fresh assessment to confirm conformity with all requirements to ISO 50003: 2021 shall be conducted.

<u>Initial applications based on ISO 50003: 2021</u>
All nonconformities against the requirements of ISO 50003: 2021 will be raised as NCs. The applicant CB shall provide a plan for resolving all NCs identified in the assessment to HKAS Executive within one month of the assessment. Accreditation to ISO 50003: 2021 will be granted when the applicant CB has rectified all critical and significant NCs to the satisfaction of HKAS Executive and has committed to rectify all minor NCs prior to the next reassessment.

2. Accredited CBs for EnMS certification

To ensure a smooth transition to ISO 50003: 2021, an accredited CB for EnMS certification shall prepare a transition plan with specified time frame for conducting a gap analysis; updating relevant documentation; implementing the updated requirements in accordance with ISO 50003: 2021; and the proposed schedule for the transition assessment. The transition plan shall be submitted to HKAS Executive by 28 February 2022.

Taking to account the transition plan submitted by each CB, from 28 February 2022 onward, HKAS Executive will agree with the accredited CB whether the transition assessment for ISO 50003: 2021 will be conducted concurrently with a routine reassessment or surveillance visit. The transition assessment can also be conducted as an additional assessment, which can be combined with ad-hoc assessment(s) for extension of scope of accreditation as appropriate. To ensure that there is sufficient time to rectify the identified NCs in relation to the transition to ISO 50003: 2021, if any, the transition assessment should be completed on or before 31 May 2023.

The transition assessment will include review of transition gap analysis and related documentation; and assessment visit at the office of the accredited CB. Such transition assessment will incur additional on-site assessment time and corresponding assessment fee by the CB. Furthermore, the CB are required to submit HKAS Executive an updated Management System Checklist [for EnMS certification (based on ISO 50003: 2021)] of HKCAS 007 together with associated documentation for review prior to the office assessment.

For assessments based on ISO 50003: 2014, obvious nonconformities against the new requirements of ISO 50003: 2021 will be raised as 'Recommendations' [Note 2].

3. Issue of Certificate of Accreditation referring to ISO 50003: 2021

A Certificate of Accreditation referring to ISO 50003: 2021 will be issued free of charge to an accredited CB for EnMS certification when conformity with ISO 50003: 2021 has been demonstrated to the satisfaction of HKAS Executive.

Notes:

1. For existing EnMS certified clients, as requirements for audit time determination have changed in the 2021 edition, it is acceptable that the contract between the certification body and the client is revised to follow new requirements, at the latest, at the first recertification audit following the certification body's transition of accreditation (based on recertification timing, this may occur after the end of the transition period).

2. Addressing the 'Recommendations' raised does not imply conformity with ISO 50003: 2021. Conformity of the CB to ISO 50003: 2021 will be assessed on-site when the CB has confirmed full implementation of ISO 50003: 2021.

HKAS Executive
17 January 2022