



International Accreditation Forum, Inc.

IAF Informative Document

**IAF Informative Document
for the
Transition of Product Certification
Bodies
to
ISO/IEC 17065:2012
from ISO/IEC Guide 65:1996**

Issue 1

(IAF ID 7: 2014)

The International Accreditation Forum, Inc. (IAF) details criteria for the accreditation of bodies that provide conformity assessment services, and such accreditation facilitates trade and reduces demands for multiple conformity assessment activities.

Accreditation reduces risk for business and its customers by assuring that accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) are competent to carry out the work they undertake within their scope of accreditation. Accreditation Bodies (ABs) that are members of IAF and the CABs they accredit are required to comply with appropriate international standards and the applicable IAF application documents for the consistent application of those standards.

ABs that are signatories to the IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) are evaluated regularly by an appointed team of peers to provide confidence in the operation of their accreditation programs. The structure and scope of the IAF MLA is detailed in IAF PR 4 - Structure of IAF MLA and Endorsed Normative Documents.

The IAF MLA is structured in five levels: Level 1 specifies mandatory criteria that apply to all ABs, ISO/IEC 17011. The combination of a Level 2 activity(ies) and the corresponding Level 3 normative document(s) is called the main scope of the MLA, and the combination of Level 4 (if applicable) and Level 5 relevant normative documents is called a sub-scope of the MLA.

- The main scope of the MLA includes activities e.g. product certification and associated mandatory documents e.g. ISO/IEC 17065. The attestations made by CABs at the main scope level are considered to be equally reliable.
- The sub-scope of the MLA includes conformity assessment requirements e.g. ISO 9001 and scheme specific requirements, where applicable, e.g. ISO TS 22003. The attestations made by CABs at the sub-scope level are considered to be equivalent.

The IAF MLA delivers the confidence needed for market acceptance of conformity assessment outcomes. An attestation issued, within the scope of the IAF MLA, by a body that is accredited by an IAF MLA signatory AB can be recognized worldwide, thereby facilitating international trade.

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INTRODUCTION TO IAF INFORMATIVE DOCUMENTS

This IAF Informative Document reflects the consensus of IAF Members on this subject and is intended to support the consistent application of requirements. However, being a document for information purposes only, IAF Accreditation Body Members, and the Conformity Assessment Bodies they accredit, are not under any obligation to use or comply with anything in this document.

**INFORMATIVE DOCUMENT FOR THE TRANSITION OF PRODUCT CERTIFICATION
ACCREDITATION TO ISO/IEC 17065:2012 FROM ISO/IEC GUIDE 65:1996****1. PUBLICATION**

The ISO/IEC Guide 65:1996 was revised and published as ISO/IEC 17065:2012 on 15 September 2012. Resolution 2012-09 was passed by the IAF General Assembly in Rio de Janeiro on 24 October 2012 endorsing a three year transition period to ISO/IEC 17065:2012.

2. ACCREDITATION BODIES

Accreditation Bodies will need time to prepare for the transition to ISO/IEC 17065:2012. In particular, Accreditation Bodies should ensure they have defined, and that their personnel have achieved, the necessary competence before undertaking assessments to ISO/IEC 17065:2012.

3. SCHEME OWNERS

As soon as possible after the transition policy is agreed, Accreditation Bodies should notify Scheme owners of this transition policy and recommend that they make necessary changes to references to ISO/IEC Guide 65 to ISO/IEC 17065:2012 within this timeframe.

There may be exceptional cases where regulatory Scheme owners are unable to reference ISO/IEC 17065:2012 within the transition period. The Accreditation Body should have a policy to manage the situation on case-by-case basis.

4. CERTIFICATION BODIES

Accreditation Bodies should make it clear to Certification Bodies that apply for accreditation following the publication of ISO/IEC 17065:2012 if they are to comply with this version immediately or to ISO/IEC Guide 65:1996. Accreditation Bodies should define a time limit after which application to ISO/IEC Guide 65:1996 cannot be received and must be transferred to ISO/IEC 17065:2012 application. They should advise a date beyond which they cannot issue accreditation to ISO/IEC Guide 65:1996.

4.1. Certification Bodies with Prior Accreditation

Certification Bodies accredited at the time of publication will be in conformance with ISO/IEC Guide 65:1996. Transition to ISO/IEC 17065:2012 may require translations, changes to procedures, training and other arrangements, which will take time. In particular, time will be needed for Conformity Assessment Bodies to establish processes for them to be able to demonstrate the compliance within the timeframe.

4.2 Preparation Time

Certification Bodies should analyse and understand the requirements of ISO/IEC 17065:2012 and comply with the transition period defined by Resolution IAF 2012-09.

5 VISITS BY ACCREDITATION BODIES

Additional visits by Accreditation Bodies to assess solely against ISO/IEC 17065:2012 are not normally required. The implementation should be verified during normal scheduled activity. However, additional assessments may be necessary for a Certification Body requesting accreditation within an accelerated timeframe.

6. NONCONFORMITIES

Accreditation Bodies should make it clear to Certification Bodies that where an assessment is conducted against ISO/IEC 17065:2012, any nonconformities identified should be dealt with according to the Accreditation Body's normal processes and must be cleared before the end of transition before accreditation to ISO/IEC 17065:2012 can be granted.

7. END OF TRANSITION AND ACCREDITATION CERTIFICATE ISSUE

On 15 September 2015, three years after publication of the new standard, all accredited Certification Bodies are expected to be in full compliance with ISO/IEC 17065:2012 and have had new accreditation certificates issued. On the 16 September 2015, all accreditation certificates referring to ISO/IEC Guide 65 will become invalid and withdrawn. The exception would be those regulatory schemes that have been unable to comply with the transition within the timeframe.

End of IAF Informative Document for the Transition of Product Certification Bodies to ISO/IEC 17065:2012 from ISO/IEC Guide 65:1996.

Further Information:

For further Information on this document or other IAF documents, contact any member of IAF or the IAF Secretariat.

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