

**MSA Ad 2015-03**

**ADVISORY**

**TO** : **ALL CONCERNED**

**SUBJECT** : Transition of Management System Accreditation to ISO/IEC  
17021-1:2015 from ISO/IEC 17021:2011

**DATE** : 19 August 2015

**BACKGROUND** :

ISO/IEC 17021:2011 was subject to systematic review and revision and was published last June 15, 2015. It incorporates relatively few new requirement for third-party audit and certification of management systems.

A Resolution (2014-12) was also passed by the IAF General Assembly in Vancouver on 15 October 2014, endorsing a 2 year transition period for the implementation of ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015.

**TRANSITION PLAN** :

**1. Pre-existing accredited Certification Bodies**

**1.1. Preparation time**

Certification Bodies shall analyze and understand the requirements of ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 and shall start identifying the differences between the standard and their current management system immediately. Certification Bodies shall make a transition plan to determine the require changes to their management system and the time frame required to execute them in order to conform to the standard. The transition plan shall be submitted to PAB for review not later than December 30, 2015. The examination of these transition plans will enable the PAB and the Certification Body to agree upon an end date for the transition process which shall not go beyond 15 June 2017.

**1.2. Transition and implementation**

Wherever possible and where there are no barriers, Certification Bodies shall implement those parts of ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 that they can without delay. PAB shall verify the Certification Bodies compliance with ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 not later than September 1, 2016 which may coincide during surveillance visits or reassessments. Nonconformities identified during these visits shall be closed out by December 30, 2016.

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## 2. End of transition and Accreditation Certificate Issue

On June 15, 2017, two (2) years after publication of the new standard, all accredited Certification Bodies are expected to be in full compliance with ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 and a new accreditation certificate shall be issued.

## 3. New application

All management system Certification Bodies that will apply for accreditation after the publication of this advisory are required to comply with ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015.



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