

Heads Up

Issue: 534

Date: 2024/09/12

To: ANAB-Accredited and Applicant MS CABs and MS Accreditation Assessors

From: Tina Garner, Senior Director of Accreditation, Management Systems

Re: IAF Database (CertSearch) - IAF MD 28 Implementation Drawing Near

The fully populated management systems certification database is soon to be available.

As previously communicated, [IAF MD 28:2023](#), *IAF Mandatory Document (MD) for the Upload and Maintenance of Data on IAF Database* **with an application date of 26 October 2024**, outlines the requirements for ABs and CBs to achieve the [IAF Database Principles](#), which were revised in 2022 to require all accredited management system certifications to be included in the database, IAF CertSearch.

Implementation

The 12-month transition period is ending and following the IAF MD application date of 26 October 2024, it is expected that all ANAB-accredited management systems certifications will be included in IAF CertSearch.

If not already done; ANAB-accredited CBs are to be populating the database over the coming 6 weeks and implementing their process to maintain the database as required in IAF MD 28.

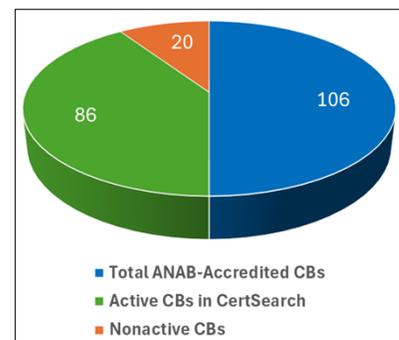
Keep in mind, this includes all certifications under ISO/IEC 17021-1 scope of accreditation; including base standards (e.g., ISO/IEC 27001, R2), subordinate standards and schemes (e.g., AS9100, RC14001).

ANAB has some accredited CBs that have not yet activated their IAF CertSearch accounts; while we realize this does not mean you are not gearing up for the implementation, we do remind you to please activate your account and begin working in the system.

For the CBs that have not yet activated your accounts in IAF CertSearch,

- ANAB will (again) be sending activation links in the coming days.
- We request that you process the activation immediately.

After you receive the activation link, for help contact Diana Nunez at dnunez1@anab.org.



Ongoing Implementation

CB's conformance to all requirements of IAF MD 28 will be confirmed shortly following the end of the transition and during ANAB regular assessments and if a CB is found out of conformance ANAB's normal processes will be followed, when a nonconforming situation is found by ANAB; nonconformities will be issued.

For CBs that elect to use the IAF database to satisfy the requirement of ISO/IEC 17021-1 section 8.1.2, the assessment criteria will also include applicable requirements of ISO/IEC 17021-1.

If a CB needs to consider the exemption process (overall or for specific client/s), please review the detail in IAF MD 28 and the IAF Principles and contact ANAB management.

Resources provided by IAF

CB Webinars

Technical support webinars are provided for CBs each month during the transition period. There are two more webinars remaining! Please find a link to the CB Webinar Schedule.

<https://iaf.nu/en/iaf-certsearch-monthly-webinars/>

Online Support

For online information support refer to <https://support.iafcertsearch.org/>

CB Brochure

The CB brochure below contains useful resources for your accredited CBs, please share:

https://f1.iafcertsearch.org/assets/p/webinars/IAFCertSearch_CB_+Brochure.pdf

Email Support

For email support please contact info@iafcertsearch.org

New CBs

For CBs new to the IAF CertSearch database,

- the [Beta/Test system](#) is available to trial the database and become familiar with the upload process before using the live site.
- CBs wanting access are to contact info@iafcertsearch.org.

IAF Message

Please find below a message to each IAF AB member, from the IAF Chair, stressing the importance of the IAF CertSearch database for our stakeholders.



International Accreditation Forum, Inc.

01 September 2024

Dear Warren Merkel,

IAF Mandatory Document (MD) for the Upload and Maintenance of Data on IAF Database

With less than two months remaining of the transition period I strongly encourage you all to take the necessary actions to ensure your organisations and your accredited certification bodies (CBs) conform to IAF MD 28. Demonstrating conformance to MD 28 indicates to the market our ability as a global membership to collaborate and implement digital tools needed to support global trade, industry and regulators, which protects and promotes the value of accreditation.

The IAF CertSearch database serves as a unifying platform for the entire global accredited conformity assessment industry. It makes it clear to the global market which are the valid:

1. IAF MLA signatory accreditation bodies (ABs) under main scope ISO/IEC 17021-1
2. Accredited CBs, who are accredited by IAF MLA signatory accreditation bodies
3. Organisations who hold valid accredited Management Systems (MS) certifications issued by accredited CBs
4. Certification schemes for Management Systems that are accredited by an AB MLA signatory

As a result the global database simplifies the process of verifying certificates across supply chains and networks, enabling real-time verification of certificates issued by any of the 2500 accredited CBs from any economy in any language. IAF CertSearch enables the verification of certification across large and complex supply chains and networks in the case of regulators. The IAF database is similar to those of other international organisations who have provided trust with global databases like WIPO for international patents.

There has been overwhelming support from the business and regulator community, with over 45,000 businesses (including 50 of the largest 100 global companies) and regulators using the database to verify certifications across their global supply chains. This will increase significantly post the transition period once the database is fully promoted. We received letters from the world's largest companies, regulators and international organisations like the OECD, many of which have conducted pilots over the last few years waiting for the MD transition period to be complete. We must unite and deliver for the communities we serve.

Due to the database interoperability and its advanced verification matching technology, it is creating new opportunities for accreditation i.e. in the finance sector users are looking for ways to assess how their clients and investees meet the growing environmental, social and governance (ESG) regulations around the world.

Because of its exclusivity to IAF MLA signatory ABs and their CBs and the exclusive invitation and data validation process, it ensures non-repudiation of accredited certification, which is so needed in a world where fake certificates can be created in seconds with generative AI. The database enables users to verify certifications across their entire global supply chain and monitor certificates/certified sites, and receive alerts for any changes affecting certification status, which is otherwise not possible, helping users better manage risk and rely more heavily on accredited certifications. It is helping organisations also identify which suppliers across their supply chain are not certified or which supplier locations are not certified which can highlight the lack of assurance and risk and which can in turn lead to greater demand for the service by the CBs we accredit.

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We must also not forget that IAF partnered with Quality Trade who has worked tirelessly since 2017 to support us in building and operating the database. To help them deliver a sustainable model for IAF we must ensure that the database is fully populated with quality and up-to-date information, so they can provide a reliable service to users and also provide ABs and CBs with reliable market analytics.

Whilst 1850 certification bodies are participating who have uploaded more than 1.7 million certifications (for all statuses), there are still some ~500 certification bodies who have yet to activate their accounts and upload their certification information. With less than 2 months remaining in the transition period we are asking all ABs to invest considerable effort so that all your certification bodies activate their accounts and upload their certification information. And explain to them the ramifications for not conforming to the IAF MD post the transition period.

The IAF database will not only clarify which companies are truly certified under accreditation, but will help individuals to understand, for Management Systems, which schemes can really be trusted, what matters given the proliferation and/or lack of transparency/understanding/reliability of logos / sustainability labels.

As an industry we too face threats and challenges, however the global database provides an incredibly unique and compelling way to demonstrate the value and strength of accreditation. It provides additional value to those who rely on accreditation and further differentiates the value we offer as international ABs.

I hope you will take these words into consideration when you take the necessary steps as an IAF member to conform to IAF MD 28 and encourage your CBs to conform to IAF MD 28.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Emanuele Riva', with a stylized flourish above the name.

Emanuele Riva
IAF Chair