

Assessment of Certification Bodies Certifying Quality Management Systems in Accordance with the ISO 9001:2008 Standard

On November 15, 2008 the new ISO 9001:2008 Standard was published replacing the ISO 9001:2000 Standard. In connection with that the international organizations ISO and IAF issued a Joint IAF – ISO communiqué – Implementation of accredited certification to ISO 9001:2008, which serves as a basis for the harmonization of transition to the new revision. The English original of the above-mentioned document is freely accessible on the IAF web-site www.iaf.nu (attached).

The above-mentioned document sets out the procedure for certification bodies for the transition to certification according to the ISO 9001:2008 Standard (from 15.11.2008 to 15.11.2010). According to this document, one year after publication of ISO 9001:2008, i.e. **from 15.11.2009, all certifications (new certifications or re-certifications) shall be issued only according to the ISO 9001:2008 Standard.**

Further on in the document it is stated that after two years from the publication of the ISO 9001:2008 Standard by the International Organization for Standardization no existing certifications issued in accordance with the ISO 9001:2000 Standard shall be valid, i.e. **after 15.11.2010 all existing certificates issued according to ISO 9001:2000 cease to be valid (these must be replaced by the new revision).**

As the revised standard does not contain any new requirements, but only introduces newly formulated explanations to the existing requirements of the ISO 9001:2000 Standard and at the same time introduces changes intended to improve consistency with the ISO 14001:2004 Standard, SNAS assesses the competency of the certification bodies to certify according to ISO 9001:2008 on a basis of their preparedness (re-training of auditors, incorporation of the new standard in the controlled documentation, procedures for the assessment of certified clients according to the new standard) and application during:

- 1) regular surveillance concentrating at the same time on the change of standard,
- 2) extraordinary surveillance,
- 3) reassessment or accreditation.

Based on the positive result of the assessment, the competency of the certification body to carry out certification of Quality Management Systems according to ISO 9001:2008 will be confirmed by the issue of a new accreditation certificate.

From 15.11.2009 SNAS will assess certification bodies certifying Quality Management Systems during accreditation, reassessment, regular and extraordinary surveillance only according to the ISO 9001:2008 Standard.


Jozef Obernauer
Director