
**Conformity assessment —
Requirements for bodies providing
audit and certification of management
systems —**

Part 2:

**Competence requirements for
auditing and certification of
environmental management systems**

*Évaluation de la conformité — Exigences pour les organismes
procédant à l'audit et à la certification des systèmes de
management —*

*Partie 2: Exigences de compétence pour l'audit et la certification des
systèmes de management environnemental*

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work. In the field of conformity assessment, ISO and IEC develop joint ISO/IEC documents under the management of the ISO Committee on Conformity assessment (ISO/CASCO).

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO and IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

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For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

ISO/IEC 17021-2 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 207, *Environmental management*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Environmental auditing and related environmental investigations*, and the ISO Committee on conformity assessment (CASCO). It was circulated for voting to the national bodies of both ISO and IEC, and was approved by both organizations.

This first edition of ISO/IEC 17021-2 cancels and replaces ISO/IEC/TS 17021-2:2012, which has been technically revised.

The following major changes have been made compared with ISO/IEC/TS 17021-2:2012:

- addition of the new requirements of ISO 14001:2015 which required additional competence to audit them;
- adaptation of the competence requirements to reflect the greater focus in ISO 14001:2015 on expected outcomes;
- clarification of the difference between sustainable development and sustainability;
- inclusion of competence criteria for the auditor to understand the context of the organization;
- inclusion of competence to audit the reliability of client communications about their EMS.

A list of all parts in the ISO/IEC 17021 series can be found on the ISO website.