



NATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND ACCREDITATION COUNCIL, BENGALURU

F. No. 14-29/2022

26th May 2022

Advisory on ISO 9001/Green Certificates/Audits

As per the resolution of 96th meeting of the Executive Committee of NAAC held on 26th May 2022, in the manuals for Self-Study Report for institutional accreditation there are couple of metrics on quality audit; green audit, energy audit, and environmental audit;

This has led to several institutions going for certifications and falling prey to unscrupulous private certifying/audit agencies issuing certificates to unsuspecting academic institutions.

It is informed that there is an international system of accreditation of such audit/certifying agencies in which the National Accreditation Board of Certification Bodies (NABCB), a constituent Board of the Quality Council of India, attached to the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, is member from India (website - <http://nabcb.qci.org.in/index.php>). The international system for certification operates under the aegis of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and its member accreditation bodies (ABs) are listed on its website iaf.nu. Similarly, for inspection/audit, which is a one-time activity, the international system is operated under the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) of which also NABCB is a member. A list of ILAC members can be seen on its website <https://ilac.org/>

It is therefore advised that the following should be observed:

1. It should be ensured that the ISO 9001 certificates are from certifying agencies accredited either by NABCB or any member AB of IAF. The certificate should carry the logo of the AB concerned.
2. There is now an ISO standard for educational institutions, ISO 21001, and institutions may obtain certification under this standard from any certifying agency as mentioned in 1. above in lieu of ISO 9001 certification.

3. As for green certification, there are recognized standards such as ISO 14001 for environment management systems or ISO 50001 for energy management systems which promote green practices and certificates to these may be obtained following advice in 1. above.
4. Any other certification claimed to be green certification should be to a recognized standard and the agency should be accredited as mentioned in 1. above
5. In case any institution goes for a one-time green audit, it should ensure that the agency is accredited as per ISO 17020 for a recognized standard/criteria for green audits by NABCB or any member of ILAC and the report/certificate carries logo of the AB.

The logo of the AB on the certificate ensures that the audit/certifying agency is accredited for auditing/certifying educational institutions and hence essential.

All academic institutions who have already obtained such certificates should check that they have authentic certificates and if not, ensure that these are replaced as per above advisory within one year.

In case of any doubts, academic institutions may consult NABCB at nabcb@qcin.org.

**Sd/-
Director, NAAC**