ASSOCIATION OF INDIAN UNIVERSITIES

November 22, 2023

GUIDANCE FOR ISO 9001 AND GREEN AUDIT REPORTS/CERTIFICATES

The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) issued an advisory on **May 26, 2023** regarding assigning weightage for the implementation of ISO 9001/Green practices in its accreditation criteria. The Advisory also outlines the Criteria for authentic certification and suggest the right third party agencies that the Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) should engage with. The purpose is to streamline the issue and bring discipline into the ISO Certification as many HEIs remain ignorant of the issues involved and are still being handed with unauthentic certificates. Taking the advantage of the situation, a number of unauthorized agencies in the market are merrily issuing such certificates which would be unauthentic and of no value.

In order to sensitize the universities and other HEIs and develop better understanding of the issues, the Association of Indian Universities organised a Webinar on the theme **"Understanding Authentic Certification for ISO 9001 & Green Practices"** on **November 09, 2023.** Mr. Anil Jauhari, former CEO, National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB) was invited to deliver a talk. The Webinar aimed at providing insights into NAACs Advisory regarding the Weightage Criteria for Implementation of ISO 9001 and green practices was attended by the Directors of IQACs of the universities, vice chancellors and other senior university functionaries. Following the webinar, Mr Anil Jauhari was requested to share a precise guideline on the ISO and Green practices. The following Guideline is being uploaded in AIU Website with an objective to simplify the understanding about the initiative and help universities in selecting the authorized agencies and follow legitimate procedure of obtaining the ISO Certificates and green Practices.

ISO 9001/ISO 14001/ISO 50001

1. In case any agency approaches you for ISO 9001 certification, you can go to website https://www.iafcertsearch.org/ and verify if it figures in the database of certification bodies there. If it does, you can go ahead and engage it.

2. Kindly insist that your certificate carries the logo of the accreditation body which has accredited it which would testify that the certification body is accredited for education sector.

3. In case you already have an ISO 9001 certificate, kindly check on the same website as above that the certification body figures in the database there. Also make sure your certificate has accreditation body logo which testifies that the certification body is accredited for education sector.

4. You can verify your certificate on the above website if it is authentic.

Note: *The same applies to ISO 14001 and ISO 50001 certificates.*

ISO 21001

ISO 21001 is not part of database on the above website. Hence follow the steps below:

1. Kindly ask the agency which accreditation body has accredited it.

2. Check the name of the accreditation body on the website https://www.iafcertsearch.org/ or iaf.nu

3. Go to the website of the accreditation body which will have a registry of its accredited certification bodies for each standard like ISO 9001, ISO 14001 etc.

4. Check the name of the certification body in the list of those accredited for ISO 21001 – if it figures, go ahead and engage it.

Note: *Each certification body under IAF system is required to make a provision on its website to verify any certificate it has issued. You can also verify your certificate on the website of your certification body too.*

GREEN AUDIT

1. If any agency approaches you for Green audit, ask which accreditation body has accredited it for ISO 17020.

2. Check on website of ILAC, https://ilac.org/, among the list of ILAC MRA signatories if the accreditation body figures.

3. Go to the website of the accreditation body and check register of accredited inspection bodies as per ISO 17020 to verify this agency figures.

4. Check the scope of accreditation of the inspection agency to confirm it references NAAC criteria.

5. Kindly insist that your certificate or audit report carries accreditation body logo and references NAAC criteria.

Note: *In case of any doubt about any of the certificates, request NABCB to help verify – send email to nabcb@qcin.org*

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