

Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand

POLICY NUMBER 2/99

**RECOGNITION BY JAS-ANZ OF STANDARDS AS BEING APPROPRIATE FOR
ACCREDITED CERTIFICATION**

Policy No. 2/99	<i>Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand</i>	Copy No.
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1. OBJECT AND FIELD OF APPLICATION

1.1 This document details the JAS-ANZ general policy regarding its recognition of standards in respect of which it will offer accreditation programmes.

1.2 This Policy shall apply to all accreditation programmes, other than where the Board has determined a different policy for a specific programme.

1.3 In the case of management systems, for example, this policy relates to the standard for the management system that an applicant for JAS-ANZ accredited certification has to comply with. In the case of personnel certification it relates to the standard (possibly covering areas such as qualifications, training and experience) that an applicant for JAS-ANZ accredited certification/registration must meet.

1.4 This Policy shall remain current until amended, replaced or withdrawn.

2. REFERENCES

2.1 ISO/IEC Guide 62 - General requirements for bodies operating assessment and certification/registration of quality systems

2.2 International Accreditation Forum Guidance to ISO/IEC Guide 62

2.3 World Trade Organization Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, Annex 3 - Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Some international guidance on this subject is to be found in clause 2.1.1.3 of ISO/IEC Guide 62, which relates to quality systems. It states that “the criteria against which the quality system of an applicant is assessed shall be those outlined in the quality system standards or other normative documents relevant to the function performed”. In the IAF Guidance to ISO/IEC Guide 62 it states in addition that any certification standard shall be “publicly available”.

3.2 Annex 3 to the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade refers to the need to achieve a national consensus on standards that are being developed and the need to avoid duplication or overlap with the work of relevant international standardizing bodies. Consequently, JAS-ANZ should give recognition to relevant international standards and avoid encouraging duplication of the activities of ISO, the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other international standards writing bodies.

3.3 It is necessary for JAS-ANZ to have regard to the content of the standard that is to be used as the basis for accredited certification, because it needs to consider what competencies are required of the certification body to enable it to assess compliance effectively and reliably. Also, the scope of the accreditation granted by JAS-ANZ must make reference to the standards for which the certification body is considered competent to audit and make certification decisions.

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4. POLICY

4.1 An accreditation program shall only be offered in respect of a standard that:

- a) is produced by Standards Australia, Standards New Zealand, ISO, IEC or another international standards making body that is recognised by the World Trade Organization; where that body regards the standard¹ as being appropriate for accredited certification; or
- b) is used by a national or State regulatory authority in a regulatory context and is regarded by them as being a standard that is appropriate for accredited certification²; or
- c) is a standard that meets the following criteria:
 - has been developed with the participation of technically competent representatives of interested parties, or has been subjected to formal review by such parties and subsequently revised as appropriate;
 - is such that it is possible to assess whether an applicant is in compliance;
 - has credibility with industry, appropriate regulatory authorities and relevant professional groups;
 - is periodically reviewed and updated with the involvement of representatives of interested parties;
 - is publicly available for implementation without restriction by number or membership or other limitation³.

4.2 The secretariat may seek advice on whether a standard meets the above criteria from the appropriate Technical Advisory Committee and also from appropriate regulatory authorities.

4.3 Continued recognition by JAS-ANZ of a standard may be reviewed in the event of significant amendment to the standard or changed circumstances that affect its compliance with these criteria.

5. IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 This Policy shall not apply retrospectively.

Executive Director
With the Authority of the Board

¹ In this context the term “standard” includes an interim-standard.

² In such cases, the scope of accreditation of a certification body would normally make reference to the regulatory authority or authorities concerned.

³ The levying of a reasonable fee for the purchase of the standard would not be regarded as a restriction or limitation, but, for example, the imposition of a fee as a condition of the implementation of the standard would be likely to be regarded as such.