

Heads Up

Issue: 537

Date: 2024/11/11

To: ANAB-Accredited and Applicant MS CBs and MS Accreditation Assessors

From: Tina Garner, Senior Director of Accreditation, Management Systems

Re: IAF Database (CertSearch) – Usage and Expectations

With IAF CertSearch now fully operational, we extend our gratitude to all CBs that have activated their accounts and continue to upload and maintain certified entity data. While we understand this may be a significant undertaking, we do appreciate your time and effort, as we recognize the value and importance of a complete database for the integrity of accredited certifications in the marketplace.

The deadline for activation and uploading was 26 October 2024. ANAB staff is currently reviewing the IAF CertSearch data and will be identifying any IAF MD 28 nonconformities in the coming weeks.

Also, within the coming weeks, the IAF CertSearch participation status, as outlined in IAF MD 28:2023, Annex A and B, will be included in the public profiles.

CBs seeking justification for exclusion are reminded to formally notify ANAB in accordance with IAF MD 28 §5.2.3, detailing any exclusions outlined in §5.2.2. Keep in mind that §5.2.3.iv) requires evidence to support the justified exclusion. For exclusion requests, please email Tina Garner at tgarner@anab.org.

If your CB is experiencing technical issues with IAF CertSearch that may be preventing you from uploading certified entities data or maintaining the data; please alert ANAB and for technical support or assistance, please email info@iafcertsearch.org.

As we move past the deadline of 26 October 2024 and this initial review of IAF CertSearch data by ANAB staff for conformity to IAF MD 28, the maintenance and determination of conformity will continue. The following are objectives to be included in ANAB assessments:

Office Assessments

- Review CB's process implementation per IAF MD 28, including timing of updates.
- Verify accuracy of data by searching and sampling a few certified clients and further sampling certified entities data via the CB's dashboard or data listings.
- Verify conformance to ISO/IEC 17021-1 section 8.1.2 (if using IAF CertSearch to meet the requirement).

Witness Assessments

- Confirmation that the witness assessment client is in IAF CertSearch, if certified.
- Confirmation certified entity's data is correct (including multiple sites, etc.).