

Welcome to IPC Newsletter



IPC Chairman Message 2024



Dr Tommy Lo

It's my great honour to be re-elected as Chairman of IPC (11/2023-10/2025), being my second term of Chairmanship of IPC.

IPC is an International Personnel Certification Association. We shall play a more dominant role in enhancing competence of audit professional, quality of production process and reliability of inspection data. We develop personal certification schemes and we are the "Scheme owner" of QMS Auditors Certification Scheme, the IAF endorsed Level 5 Normative Document.

IPC, as a leading international personnel certification body, is obliged to adapt the society need for certification of competence of international professionals in a variety of categories and keep abreast on latest development of the certification market. In this regard, we endorsed the IPC VVB Verifier/validator Personal Certification Scheme for both the industry and verification/validation bodies/registrars (VVB) in the 2023 Athens AGM meeting. The demand for professional auditors in Greenhouse gases verification/validation and ESG reporting is huge.

I wish to express my sincere gratefulness to our Board of Directors for their support and our MLA members for their continuous effort in promoting IPC activities. IPC will continue exploring and developing relevant personal schemes that serve the industry when there is a need.

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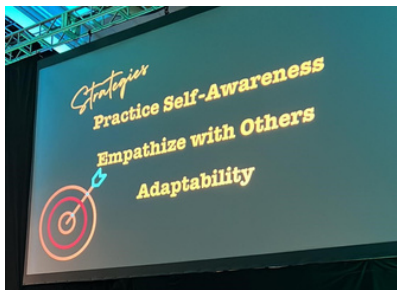
ICE Event >>>

IPC participated at the International Credentialing Excellence (ICE) Exchange Conference that took place on **October 24-26, 2023**, in Colorado Springs. In a key meeting on October 24, the ICE Accreditation Services Council brought together stakeholders that explored opportunities for alignment between the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) and accreditation processes, focusing on improving customer experience. The conference also featured a session on October 25, where Osman Vural, IPC representative and IAS PCB Accreditation Program Manager, and Prasanth Ramakrishnan, Senior Accreditation Manager, made a presentation titled “Adding ISO/IEC 17024 Accreditation to NCCA Accredited Programs.”



IPC representative and IAS PCB Accreditation Program Manager at the conference

The overall event, featuring diverse tracks covering Beyond Traditional Credentials, Business of Credentialing, Credentialing Innovations, Data Management, Privacy, and Test Security, Marketing and Communications, Standards and Accreditation, and Test Development and Administration, highlighted the commitment of the credentialing community to adapt, collaborate, and innovate.



ICE Exchange Conference

With today’s rapidly developing new technology, it is important for the credentialing industry to have adaptability, and also need to integrate it into the accreditation program to improve the efficiency and quality. The conference participants actively engaged in discussions about the future of the credentialing industry and the potential impact of AI applications, hinting at a transformative shift in accreditation processes.

2023 Joint BoD and Annual IPC General Meeting >>>

From October 16th to 18th, 2023, the International Personnel Certification Association (IPC) held its Joint Board of Directors (BoD) and Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Oasis Hotel in Glyfada, Athens, Greece.



2023 Joint BoD and Annual IPC General Meeting

This gathering brought together IPC directors from around the globe to explore the latest advancements in personnel certification.

Among the conference, attendees had the opportunity to embark on a captivating tour of the Acropolis of Athens.



IPC directors at the Acropolis of Athens

To further enhance the event, a comprehensive workshop titled “Validation Methods for Personnel Certification Schemes” was conducted on the final day. This workshop provided a platform for in-depth discussions and knowledge sharing on the validation of personnel certification schemes, ensuring their effectiveness and credibility.

IAF and IPC Renew >>>



Logos of IAF & IPC

The International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Personnel Certification Association (IPC) are pleased to announce the renewal of their memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the recognition of the IPC Management System Auditors certification scheme as a sub-scope of the IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA).

IAF and IPC decided to develop and maintain cooperation to ensure the coordination of IAF certification in the IPC Management System Auditors, and will continue to improve the certification program. IPC Management System Auditors is the first person certification scheme ever to have achieved recognition under the IAF MLA, with the original MOU being signed in 2017. This renewal enables continued mutual recognition of certificates issued by accredited certification bodies within the IPC Management System Auditors scheme.

IPC Management System Auditors was developed to provide a standardized framework for certifying management system auditors worldwide. The scheme aims to ensure the competence and proficiency of auditors in conducting management system audits based on international standards. The scheme identifies key competencies for management system auditors and establishes methods to demonstrate and evaluate these competencies.

It takes into consideration the collective experience of IPC members and the requirements of industry and certification bodies/registrars.

“We are thrilled to renew our MOU with IPC and continue recognizing the IPC Management System Auditors certification scheme under the IAF MLA,” said Emanuele Riva, IAF Chair. “This renewal highlights our commitment to promoting the competence and professionalism of management system auditors worldwide. We are confident that this renewed partnership will continue to advance the quality and consistency of management system audits across industries.”

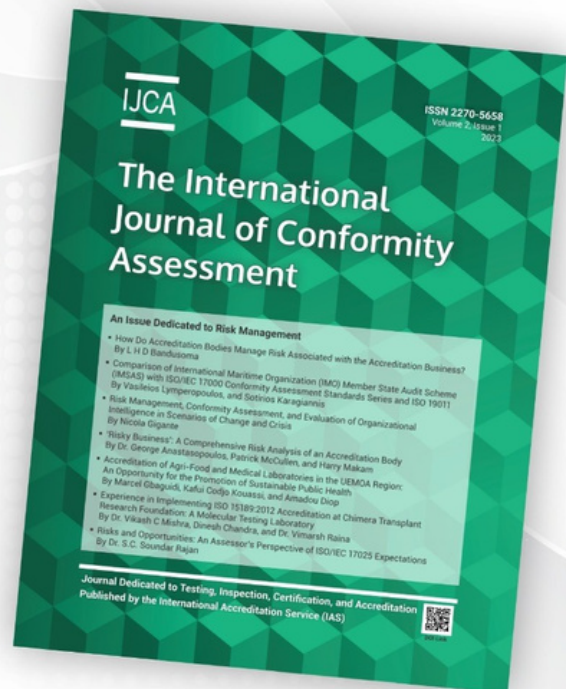
IPC General Secretary, Dr. George Anastasopoulos, noted that “IPC sets, since the 90’s, specifications and provides the standard and the framework for independent, recognized 3rd party certification, of Management System Auditors, under ISO/IEC 17024. IPC’s Management System Auditors scheme can be used by all PCBs that are accredited by IAF MLA signatories and are becoming IPC members. I believe that this is a major development that will widen IPC and IAF members’ family with PCBs aiming to contribute to the goal of continuous improvement.”



The International Journal of Conformity Assessment (IJCA) is an international, peer-reviewed journal for conformity assessment academics and practitioners.

IJCA aims to contribute substantially to the fields of testing, inspection, certification and accreditation by providing a high-quality medium for the dissemination of new knowledge and methods. Among IJCA’s targeted audience are conformity assessment scholars, practitioners and other interested groups and individuals.

IJCA is published by the International Accreditation Service (IAS) a non-profit organization based in Brea, California, USA.



Read IJCA today for free at <https://www.iasonline.org/ijca/>



New ISO 9001 >>>



The new ISO working group TC176/SC2/WG29 for the revision of the ISO 9001 standard that met in BSI premises at London, UK

IPC was present at the new ISO working group TC176/SC2/WG29 met in BSI premises at London, UK, from Dec. 4 to Dec 8, 2023, to initiate the process of the latest revision of ISO 9001. The development and approval process of the new standard revision is expected to last about three years. This means that the next edition of ISO 9001 will likely be published in 2026.



Dr. George Anastasopoulos, IPC General Secretary with Mr. Thomas Votsmeier, IPC director, at the TC 176/SC2/WG29 meeting at London, for the revision of ISO 9001

With the purpose of improving the reputation of products, reducing duplicate inspections, and eliminate technical barriers, it is necessary to have ISO 9001 system certification for quality evaluation and supervision of products and enterprises in various countries, to protect the rights and interests of producers, distributors, users, and consumers.

After maintaining the status-quo of ISO 9001 for 11 years, it is expected that the 2026 revision will contain important changes, like integration of emerging technologies, more detailed risk management requirements, the expansion of the concept of customer satisfaction, further clarifications that the QMS is an integral part of the business processes, introducing change management and knowledge management.

The 2026 revision will take new elements such as integration, innovation, organizational culture, business continuity, information aspects into consideration. In summary, it takes the potential impact of the rapid development of emerging technologies on certification evaluation into account, and will become more humane. It will integrate QMS with business processes more closely. It has many innovative aspects and makes the certification system more comprehensive.

WG 29 Timeline for ISO 9001 Revision 2023-2025



The timeline for ISO 9001 revision from 2023 to 2025 of work group 29

ISO's technical committee ISO/TC176/SC2 is responsible for the periodic review and revision of ISO 9001. The goal is to maintain or improve the standard's usability and relevance in the face of advances in technology, changes in the global business environment, and trends in society. The current version of ISO 9001 was published in 2015. IPC participates actively in this revision process.

ISO/IEC 17024 Revision >>>

ISO/IEC 17024 standard is currently in the process of revision. IPC was represented by Mr. Osman Vural at the 3rd meeting of ISO/CASCO WG30, that took place in Geneva, Switzerland, from November 28-30, 2023.

The agenda included the review and approval of the report from the 2nd WG30 meeting, a request for an exception to Common Elements on ISO/IEC 17024, and the revision process of ISO/IEC 17024.



3rd meeting of ISO/CASCO WG30 at Geneva, Switzerland

During the meeting various topics were covered, including the necessity of independent evaluations, affordability discrepancies across nations, the importance

of segregating training and certification activities, recertification prerequisites, the optional nature of surveillance, maintaining impartiality. The conversations emphasized the significance of feedback mechanisms, the historical context, and challenges in assessing PCBs. Conversations branched into diverse aspects, such as the integration of AI in certification schemes, human participation to the technological advancements in future's certification process, and technology's role over the next decade.

In conclusion, the discussion extended to the aspects of standard requirements and certification process. During this meeting, a standard WG Draft was prepared and circulated for comments. Next meeting is expected to be held May 28-30, 2024, at Geneva, Switzerland.

Personal Certification and Benefits >>>

Nowadays, people and the public's awareness of certification is gradually increasing. Professional bodies and associations now see the value in offering certifications, certification of persons credentials is rapidly increasing in number. Accreditation ensures that the certification body follows practices that are fair to candidates and certified persons. The most significant benefit of accreditation is, it provides confidence that the certification body for persons is meeting the requirements of ISO/IEC 17024. It is competent to certify people, and undertakes its work impartially. Accreditation helps certification bodies for persons by providing constructive feedback for continual improvement for the credentialing program.

ISO/IEC 17024: Conformity Assessment - General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons was initially published by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in 2003 and substantially revised in 2012. This standard was developed by experts in the field of certification of persons, including certification bodies for persons, examination development and measurement experts,

and accreditation bodies, with the objective of achieving and promoting a globally accepted benchmark for organizations operating the certification of persons.

In the case of ISO/IEC 17024, an accreditation body would assess a certification body for persons to evaluate its competence, impartiality and consistent operation in awarding the certification of persons as defined in the requirements of the standard. This provides confidence that the certification can be trusted.

IAF brochure on Personnel Certification and Benefits describes the importance of accredited certification to ISO/IEC 17024. It explores the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders with an interest in certification of persons and explains the benefits of accredited certification in realizing the objective above.

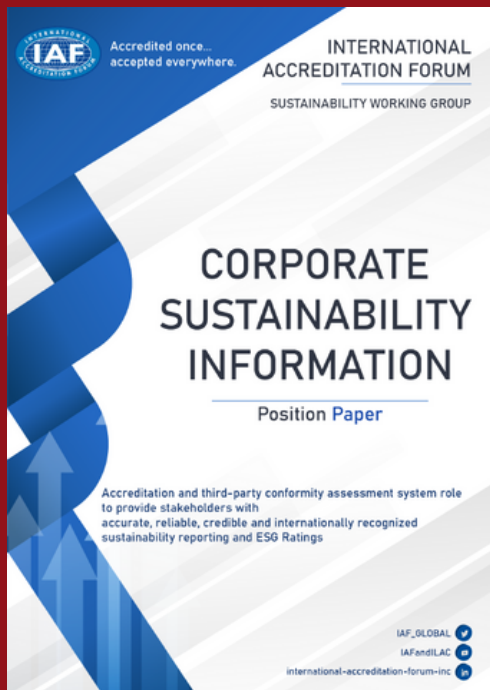
For more detailed explained, please read the brochure of **ACCREDITED CERTIFICATION FOR PERSONS AND BENEFITS.**

IAF Sustainability >>>

IAF's "Corporate Sustainability Information" position paper explores how accredited conformity assessment plays a vital role in organization's sustainability. IAF has established a Sustainability Working Group organized in three sub-working groups. This position paper has 58 pages, and it is focused on "ESG verification, sustainability reporting external assurance and ESG rating".

This paper outlines the value of the international system of accreditation and accredited bodies in providing frameworks that ensure the credibility of the verification of sustainability related information that meets the requirements of mandatory rules and the emerging expectations of stakeholders.

For more information about IAF Sustainability, please visit <https://bit.ly/3Q3UUmS>.



Cover of the position paper

NAAF >>>



North American Accreditation Forum (NAAF) as a nonprofit organization is formed to support regional and global conformity assessment. NAAF will work to facilitate global fair trade as described in the WTO (World Trade Organization) and United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) principles. The accreditation body members of NAAF provide accreditation for testing laboratories, calibration laboratories, inspection agencies and certification bodies, among others.

The founding members of NAAF include Accreditation Canada Diagnostics, AIHA Laboratory Accreditation Programs, American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA), ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB), Canadian Association for Laboratory Accreditation (CALA), Entidad Mexicana de Acreditación (EMA), International Accreditation Service (IAS), National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP), Perry Johnson Laboratory Accreditation (PJLA), Standards Council of Canada (SCC), and United Accreditation Foundation (UAF).

The founding members of NAAF are signatories to international arrangements such as the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and/or International Accreditation Forum (IAF), as well as signatories to the Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) and/or the IAAC (Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation) - organizations whose purpose is to reduce technical barriers between countries through mutual recognition of accreditation bodies results based on peer reviews conducted by other signatory members.

In addition to supporting the reduction of barriers and mutual recognition of accreditation bodies, NAAF will promote open and competitive conformity assessment activities worldwide among accreditation bodies, providing customers and conformity assessment bodies with choice and access to competent accreditation services facilitating domestic and international trade.

For more information about NAAF, please visit www.na-af.org.

Internships »»

IPC's remote internships are designed for students who are unable to travel but still want to boost their career prospects with overseas work experience and professional coaching tailored to specific career goals. IPC remote internships are unpaid positions providing volunteers with practical experience in English.

The internship period should be at least 2 months, and at most 12 months. The exact dates will be agreed between IPC and the intern. The topic of Internship is to Support IPC in social media, Newsletter, and electronic brand building projects.

Knowledge of desktop publishing software and familiarity with social media applications will be appreciated but it is not required.

To apply, the candidates must submit an email at secretary@ipcaweb.org explaining the reasons they wish to be accepted as IPC interns attaching their detailed CV.



For further questions, please contact IPC secretariat at: secretary@ipcaweb.org

Editor's note:

Please, feel free to forward this newsletter to your colleagues, business associates and any other party that might be interested. If they are wishing to join our mailing list, and for any additional questions please don't hesitate to contact us at: **secretary@ipcaweb.org**.

This newsletter was prepared by IPC 2023-2024 interns' team consisted by:

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