

## **Transition Schedule for ISO/IEC 17043:2023**

ISO/IEC 17043:2023 ‘Conformity assessment - General requirements for the competence of proficiency testing providers’ was published in May 2023. The International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) has endorsed a three-year transition period for the implementation of this new standard from the date of its publication. The tentative deadline for proficiency testing (PT) providers to conform to ISO/IEC 17043:2023 is therefore 31 May 2026. After the transition period, the accreditation to ISO/IEC 17043:2010 will become invalid.

### **1. New applicants**

HKAS Executive will accept applications based on ISO/IEC 17043:2023 from **1 December 2023**. HKAS Executive recommends PT providers submitting new applications based on this edition. Applications based on ISO/IEC 17043:2010 will NOT be accepted after **31 May 2024**.

#### Applications based on ISO/IEC 17043:2010

From **1 December 2023**, for assessments based on ISO/IEC 17043:2010, nonconformities against the requirements of ISO/IEC 17043:2010 will be, as usual, raised as ‘Nonconformities (NCs)’. Obvious nonconformities against the new requirements of ISO/IEC 17043:2023 will be raised as ‘Recommendations’\*. Accreditation to ISO/IEC 17043:2010 will be granted when an applicant rectifies all critical and significant NCs to the satisfaction of HKAS Executive and commits to rectify all minor NCs prior to the next reassessment.

To ensure a smooth transition to the new standard, all new PT providers accredited to ISO/IEC 17043:2010 shall prepare a transition plan and submit it to HKAS Executive *within one month* from the date of obtaining the accreditation.

*(Please refer to Appendix I for a sample transition plan)*

If accreditation based on ISO/IEC 17043:2010 of any new application cannot be granted by **31 May 2025**, HKAS Executive will suspend processing the application. The applicant shall implement the requirements of ISO/IEC 17043:2023 before HKAS Executive resumes the application process. Another assessment to confirm the conformity with the requirements of the new standard shall be conducted. Please note that other accreditation regulations relevant to an initial application still apply.

## Applications based on ISO/IEC 17043:2023

Applications based on ISO/IEC 17043:2023 will be processed according to established accreditation procedures.

All assessed PT providers shall provide a plan for resolving all NCs identified in the assessment to HKAS Executive *within one month* after the assessment visit. Accreditation to ISO/IEC 17043:2023 will be granted when an applicant rectifies all critical and significant NCs to the satisfaction of HKAS Executive and commits to rectify all minor NCs prior to the next reassessment.

## **2. Accredited PT providers**

To ensure a smooth transition to ISO/IEC 17043:2023, all accredited PT providers shall prepare a transition plan and submit it to HKAS Executive by **1 December 2023**.

Successful transition to ISO/IEC 17043:2023 shall be confirmed through an on-site assessment. The assessment can be conducted either concurrently with an ordinary assessment (e.g. reassessment, surveillance visit or assessment for scope extension) or on an ad-hoc basis. If an accredited PT provider prefers to have its assessment for transition to ISO/IEC 17043:2023 conducted on an occasion other than an ordinary assessment visit, it may request HKAS Executive to do so but it shall bear the cost of such a visit. In any case, the assessment for transition to ISO/IEC 17043:2023 shall be conducted on or before 1 December 2025.

*(Please refer to Appendix I for a sample transition plan)*

From **1 December 2023** to **31 May 2025**, assessments can be based either on 2010 or 2023 edition of ISO/IEC 17043, depending on the transition plan submitted by the accredited PT providers. HKAS Executive will confirm the accreditation standard to be used prior to the assessment. In an assessment based on ISO/IEC 17043:2010, obvious nonconformities against the new requirements of ISO/IEC 17043:2023 will be raised as 'Recommendation'\*.

### **3. Issue of Certificate of Accreditation referring to ISO/IEC 17043:2023**

Certificate(s) of Accreditation referring to ISO/IEC 17043:2023 will be issued free of charge to replace the one(s) based on ISO/IEC 17043:2010 when an accredited PT provider demonstrates conformity with the new standard to the satisfaction of HKAS Executive through an on-site assessment. Any additional certificates will be charged according to the fee schedule.

*Note: \*Addressing the 'Recommendations' does not imply conformity to ISO/IEC 17043:2023. Conformity to ISO/IEC 17043:2023 will be assessed in a separate assessment.*

HKAS Executive

12 June 2023

## Appendix I

The transition plan should contain, at least, the following information:

Registration Number:	HOKLAS XXX		
Monitoring Plan	A / B / C		
Gap analysis	Before DD MM YYYY		
Management system updated to meet ISO/IEC 17043:2023	Before DD MM YYYY		
Implementation of the revised management system	From DD MM YYYY		
Internal audit of the updated management system	Before DD MM YYYY		
Year	Assessment type	Due dates	Standard to be used
2023	Reassessment	September 2023	ISO/IEC 17043:2010
2024	1 <sup>st</sup> surveillance	September 2024	ISO/IEC 17043:2023
2025	2 <sup>nd</sup> surveillance	September 2025	ISO/IEC 17043:2023