



International Organization for Standardization  
Organisation internationale de normalisation  
Международная организация по стандартизации

Ch. de Blandonnet 8 | CP 401, 1214 Vernier | Geneva, Switzerland | T: +41 22 749 01 11 | central@iso.org | www.iso.org

Your ref.  
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CASCO N590

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**TO THE MEMBERS OF CASCO AND  
ORGANIZATIONS IN LIAISON**

**Auditor competence in EMS certification – new requirements in  
ISO 14001:2015 addressed in ISO/IEC 17021-2**

Dear Sir/Madam,

At the end of 2016, the secretariat of ISO/TC 207/SC 1 *Environmental management systems* sent a letter to the CASCO Secretariat informing of concerns about how some certification bodies interpret clauses of the new version of ISO 14001 which led to inconsistent application of the standard in the market. The reason raised in the letter was that auditors were not always competent to audit the new requirements.

The CASCO Chairman Policy Coordination Group (CPC) agreed at its last meeting that the new version of ISO/IEC 17021-2 *competence requirements for auditing and certification of environmental management systems* published at the end of 2016 would contribute to addressing this issue as the competence requirements were aligned with the 2015 version of ISO 14001. In terms of resources, the WG 34 that developed ISO/IEC 17021-2 made a presentation on the main changes contained in the standard which is available publicly on [iso.org](http://iso.org).

The CPC asked the secretariat to communicate this information to the ISO/TC 207 SC1 and also to the CASCO members and liaisons.

Yours faithfully,

Sean Mac Curtain  
Director, Conformity Assessment  
CASCO Secretary