



ISO/CASCO CLARIFICATION REQUEST FORM

Date of submission: June 21 2017

1. Requesting ISO Member or A liaison member: NEN
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5. Please specify the ISO/CASCO document by name and number (ISO/IEC 17XXX) and clause number: ISO/IEC 17024:2012, clause 9.4.8 f) The certificates shall contain, as a minimum, the following information: (..) f) the effective date of certification and date of expiry.
6. Clarification request, please formulate the request clearly and where possible in a format that enables a YES or NO answer: Question 1: Must effective date of certification always be the date of the certification decision? If not, question 2: Can the effective date of certification be prior to the date of the certification decision? If yes, question 3: which moment is acceptable as the earliest effective date of certification? If not to question 1, question 4; Can the effective date of certification be later than the date of the certification decision? RvA interpretation (RvA, Raad voor Accreditatie, Dutch Accreditation Council) We think that with the certification decision <i>is</i> decided that a person is certified, and that thus the effective date of certification starts at that moment of time (although perhaps the outcome of the decision has not yet been communicated to the person, or perhaps that the certificate has not yet been printed). However, that the effective date of certification must be the date of the certification decision has not explicitly been required in the standard. For that reason we send in a clarification request. Some considerations We consider the certification decision as the formal moment at which is determined whether a candidate fulfils all certification requirements (including the competence requirements). At that moment also is decided whether a person can be certificated or not, and whether that person can be granted a certificate or not. It is the moment at which is decided to attest that a person fulfils all certification requirements and thus to start the effective date of certification. One can say that a person is certified at the moment that has been decided that he/she meets all requirements; not earlier and not later. For that reason we consider that the effective date of certification has to be the date of the certification decision However, in ISO/IEC 17024:2012 is not clearly required <i>what</i> the effective date of certification must be (only <i>that</i> there must be an effective date of certification). In another standard within the family of ISO/IEC 17000-standards such a requirement has been expressed: in ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015. In that standard is expressed that the effective date of certification cannot be prior to the date of the certification decision (section 8.2.2.b).

If fixing the effective date of certification has to be considered as one of the principle actions in certification, than regarding interpreting ISO/IEC 17024 we need to follow the equivalent requirement of ISO/IEC 17021-1. If we consider fixing the effective date of certification *not* as one of the principle actions in certification, than we don't need to follow the equivalent requirement of ISO/IEC 17021-1. However we *can* follow the equivalent requirement of ISO/IEC 17021-1. At least because of harmonization among certification bodies, especially those who certify management system *and* persons.

7. Consensus position of the maintenance group (This section is only to be completed by the maintenance group members)

Question 1: Yes, the effective date of initial certification is the date of the certification decision. It cannot be before the date of the decision. This could apply differently for the effective re-certification decision (see also 9.6.3.2.3. ff., 17021-1:2015). When recertification activities are successfully completed prior to the expiry date of the existing certification, the expiry date of the new certification can be based on the expiry date of the existing certification. The issue date on a new certificate shall be on or after the recertification decision.

Send the filled form to casco@iso.org

To be completed by maintenance group members only

Date request sent maintenance panel		
Is the clarification request formatted in an acceptable manner?	yes	X
	no	
Is it clearly and unambiguously worded?	yes	X
	no	
Do you have a conflict in participating in this request if so please specify.	yes	
	no	X