

Consultancy and Certification

Consultancy is providing a specific solution for a specific need.

ASCB recognises that conformity assessment bodies may circumvent requirements that restrict consultancy activities, by establishing separate legal entities with common ownership. This technically meets the requirements of the assessed standards. However, this structure can result in a greater, unchecked risk to impartiality.

Certification Body, including their sub-contractors, shall ensure that their activities do not affect the confidentiality, objectivity or impartiality of its certifications/registrations and should not offer or provide the following, without adequate provision to identify, analyse, evaluate, treat, monitor and document on an ongoing basis the risks to impartiality:

- Those services that it certifies/registers others to perform.
- Consulting services to obtain or maintain certification/registration.
- Services to design, implement or maintain management systems.
- Solutions of a specific managerial, operational or technical nature.

Consultancy is considered to be participating in an active and creative manner in the development of a management system that is to be assessed by a Certification Body, for example:

- Preparing or producing manuals, handbooks or procedures.
- Participating in the decision-making process regarding management system matters.
- Giving specific advice toward the development and implementation of management systems for eventual certification.

The provision of template documents for someone else to modify does not constitute consultancy.

The provision of general training services does not constitute consultancy.

Certification Body may, without reward, introduce providers of consultancy and related services to clients. The Certification Body shall take action to correct inappropriate links or statements by any consultancy organization stating or implying that certification would be simpler, easier, faster or less expensive if the certification body were used. A certification body shall not state or imply that certification would be simpler, easier, faster or less expensive if a specified consultancy organization were used.

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