



Considering ASCB Accreditation

An introduction for training providers and training courses · Training accreditation edition

\$250B+

COMBINED TURNOVER

1M+

GLOBAL WORKFORCE

230+

ACCREDITED BODIES

140+

COUNTRIES

Across organizations certified by ASCB-accredited bodies. Standards-based accreditation since 1995. ISO/IEC 17011.

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Comprehension matters to us. If you would prefer this document in another language, please ask.

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01 Introduction

This edition is for training providers and course owners considering accreditation with ASCB against its published training standards. It describes who ASCB is, what accreditation involves, how the application process works, and the basis on which ASCB operates, so that you can consider an application with a clear picture of the relationship you would be entering.

Accreditation is independent third-party assessment of a conformity assessment body against the international standard written for its activity. For your clients, and their customers, it distinguishes a certificate issued under accreditation from one issued without it.

ASCB operates two published training accreditation standards: ASCB TP:2025 for training providers, and ASCB TC:2025 for training courses. They apply to any structured training in any sector, delivered in classroom, virtual, eLearning or blended form, whether by a commercial training organization or in-house by an organization training its own people. Each accreditation is defined by a schedule setting out the standard and scope, every ASCB accreditation is publicly searchable at ascb.com, and the students of accredited training are registered on the IRQAO register, where each completion carries a validation document with a QR code that anyone can check.

Alongside the published standards, ASCB can assess against bespoke standards and can develop bespoke accreditation schemes to meet the needs of clients, scheme owners and other third-party stakeholders, through its Bespoke Standards Development service. Where a published standard exists for an activity, ASCB applies it directly, without proprietary additions; where one does not, a scheme can be built for the purpose.

For more than 30 years, ASCB has delivered independent, standards-based accreditation to certifying bodies operating internationally. Formed in 1995 in the United Kingdom and now headquartered in the United States, ASCB operates to ISO/IEC 17011 and accredits conformity assessment bodies across the principal management systems, product, personnel, inspection, laboratory and educational standards, applying the published ISO/IEC standard directly, without proprietary schemes or non-standard criteria.

ASCB around the world

230+**Conformity assessment bodies accredited since 1995**

Cumulative count of CABs that have achieved accreditation through the ASCB framework.

30,000+**Organizations holding ASCB-accredited certification**

Estimated combined annual turnover of approximately USD 250 billion and a workforce exceeding one million people.

140+**Countries**

Locations of the organizations holding ASCB-accredited certification.

10,000+**Assessors, auditors and quality-related personnel**

Registered through ASCB's training accreditation programs.

How we assess

ASCB's assessment reporting goes further than a binary compliant or non-compliant baseline. Assessors apply a metric scoring system across each applicable requirement, based on the performance maturity levels developed by ISO Technical Committee 176: the traditional minor and major nonconformities, opportunities for improvement and recommendations are identified, and emphasis on continual improvement and best-in-class performance is recognized, with quantitative scores across areas such as competence, leadership and documentation. The methodology follows published rules that can be interrogated and challenged, and it adds no requirements beyond the published standard.

Where we operate

ASCB operates from United States headquarters in Dover, Delaware, with regional representation in the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates and India. Organizations certified by ASCB-accredited bodies serve clients across the public and private sectors, including national and local governments, hospital trusts, regional councils, and a wide range of commercial and industrial customers.

Training is one of the least regulated purchases an organization makes: anyone can run a course and issue a certificate. Accreditation against a published standard changes what a certificate means, because what sits behind it has been assessed and can be checked.

What the accreditation examines

ASCB training accreditation assesses the full training lifecycle: course design and learning objectives, learner and trainer materials, delivery methods, assessment arrangements, version control, feedback and continual improvement, and fairness, accessibility and inclusivity. At provider level it also examines the system around the training: how needs are analyzed before a course is commissioned, how courses are evaluated, and how results feed back into course updates, the disciplines that determine whether training changes anything after the classroom.

For any structured training, delivered by anyone

The scheme applies to any structured training an organization delivers, in any sector: leadership and management, health and safety, compliance, sales and customer service, technical and IT, onboarding, first aid, professional qualification and lead auditor courses, in classroom, live virtual or eLearning form. It serves commercial training providers and in-house training alike, and it scales: a single accredited course, an internal training function, a corporate training department, or a full training organization or institute.

A verifiable record for every learner

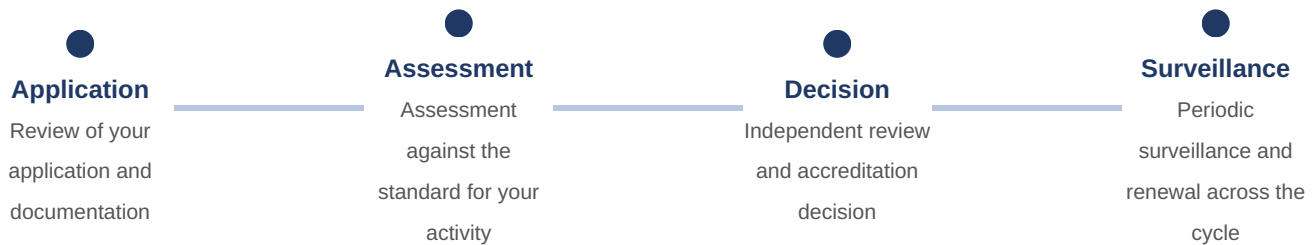
Certificates issued under the accreditation are registered on the IRQAO register, where anyone can check them, free, in seconds. The learner carries a public record of completed training that outlasts the paper certificate; the employer or buyer gets a certificate that can be verified rather than taken on trust; and listings are maintained, not permanent, so a record on the register is a current one.

A route that grows with you

Many organizations start with a single course accreditation and extend to provider accreditation as the value shows; the delivery add-ons pick up virtual and eLearning as those channels grow. The routes are set out in section 05.

Accreditation is a periodic, risk-based assessment of your organization against the requirements of the relevant standard, carried out on a sampling basis. It examines the arrangements behind your training: governance, the competence framework behind your people, and the design, delivery and evaluation of the training itself, and it continues through surveillance across the cycle rather than ending at the initial decision.

Accreditation brings practical apparatus with it: the ASCB accreditation mark and logos for your certificates and materials, clear guidance on describing your accredited status, and a public listing at ascb.com that anyone can check. Your schedule of accreditation keeps pace with your organization; scope extensions are assessed and granted through the same disciplines as the original accreditation.



Ahead of each surveillance and renewal assessment, ASCB makes contact in advance to confirm how the assessment will be conducted and any information required, so each assessment is planned with you. Assessment findings are reported through the scoring methodology described in section 02.

Impartiality and independence from consultancy

Impartiality is a foundation of accreditation. ISO/IEC 17011 requires an accreditation body to safeguard the objectivity of its decisions, and ASCB protects this structurally: it explains its requirements and its process to every applicant and accredited body, and it does not provide consultancy. Neither ASCB nor its leadership or employees hold any interest in, or common ownership with, any consultancy business, so the body that assesses you has no stake in how you prepare.

For the same reason, ASCB will never recommend a particular consultant or adviser, and will never suggest that using one would secure accreditation or make it simpler, faster or cheaper. Accreditation is decided on what the assessment finds, and on nothing else.

05 The accreditation routes

Two standards, and a related route, cover the field. Which combination fits depends on whether the governance of your training operation, the courses themselves, or both, should carry accreditation.

- 1 Training provider accreditation, ASCB TP:2025.** Accredits the governance of the organization delivering the training, at three levels: Level 1 for an individual business function delivering internal training, Level 2 for a corporate training department, and Level 3 for organizations whose primary business is training. Every TP:2025 accreditation includes at least one course assessed against TC:2025.
- 2 Training course accreditation, ASCB TC:2025.** Accredits individual courses, at three levels mirroring the provider standard, plus an Individual course module for a course standing alone outside an accredited provider context. Levels can be supplemented with a Virtual course add-on for live online delivery and an eLearning add-on for self-paced online delivery.
- 3 Personnel certification, ISO/IEC 17024.** For competence schemes that require periodic evaluation or CPD, accreditation against ISO/IEC 17024 may be more suitable. It is the closer neighbor of training provider accreditation, since it accredits the body operating the scheme rather than an individual course. Ask us, and we will advise which route fits your scheme.

The guides to provider and course accreditation, ASL(G)77 and ASL(G)21, accompany this document and describe each route in full.

06 The path to accreditation

Accreditation is granted in stages, summarized here from the accompanying guides. The process evaluates your documentation, your course materials and your delivery, using the scoring methodology described in section 02.

- 1 Application.** Apply on form ASL(F)87 for provider accreditation or ASL(F)53 for course accreditation. Our terms of engagement are provided with the application invitation, so you can read them before committing to anything; on acceptance of your application, you accept the terms expressly and the application fee is invoiced.
- 2 Document review.** You submit documented evidence against ASCB TP:2025, including at least one course against ASCB TC:2025 (or the course materials alone, for course-only accreditation), and an assessor reviews it at the relevant level. A corrective action stage may follow.
- 3 Provisional accreditation.** The assessment is submitted for ASCB's accreditation decision, and a provisional accreditation is issued.
- 4 Verification in practice.** ASCB verifies the accreditation in practice before full status is granted. The form of verification depends on the route, and may include witnessed activity at the applicant's expense, review of student feedback, or remote surveillance.
- 5 Full accreditation.** On a successful outcome you attain full accreditation, listed and publicly searchable at ascb.com, and ASCB opens your IRQAO account for student and certificate listings.
- 6 Student registration.** All students of accredited training are registered on the IRQAO register, and the registration is approved within one day of successful completion of the course. IRQAO provides privacy settings to meet the requirements of students and national regulators, and each completion carries a validation document with a QR code.

07 Fees and quotation

The provider and course standards are tiered to the scale of the training operation, because scale determines the quality assurance sampling ASCB is required to conduct. Fees are therefore quoted individually rather than published as a single schedule. Quotations are issued in US dollars. For applicants based in the United Kingdom or the Eurozone, ASCB can quote and invoice in pounds sterling or in euros, and where a quotation is issued in one of those currencies, that is the currency for the engagement.

To provide an accurate quotation, we ask four questions:

- 1 How many delegates or students do you train per year by live delivery, in person or virtual?
- 2 How many delegates or students do you train per year by eLearning?
- 3 How many active courses would you provide? An active course is one delivered or offered in the last 12 months.
- 4 Which courses would be accredited, and what are their durations?

The quotation is confirmed before your application is formally accepted. Fees relate to the administration and assessment work conducted and carry no presumption of the accreditation outcome. A certification fee applies for each student registration on the IRQAO register, at the rate confirmed in your quotation. A specimen copy of our terms of engagement is published on our website under “How do I apply?”, and the terms are available on request at any stage. They are provided as a matter of course with every application invitation, before any invoice is raised.

Prospective applicants are entitled to a clear statement of the basis on which ASCB operates. The following is ASCB's published position, from ASL(G)32, ASCB Authority, International Guidance:

The authority under which Accreditation Service for Certifying Bodies LLC (ASCB) operates arises solely from the contractual relationship between ASCB and the organizations that engage its accreditation services.

ASCB operates independently of all governments and statutory authorities. It is not established, appointed, licensed, or endorsed by any national government, state agency, or intergovernmental organization, unless expressly stated in writing by ASCB. Accordingly, no statutory, legislative, or governmental authority is implied or claimed beyond that which ASCB holds under private commercial law.

ASCB-accredited organizations offer services to both public- and private-sector clients worldwide. The legal and regulatory recognition of accreditation differs across countries and sectors, so it is the responsibility of every ASCB-accredited organization, and of their own clients or contracting authorities, to verify that ASCB accreditation is acceptable for its intended purpose and complies with any applicable local or national requirements.

Training carries its own version of this check. In many countries, particular subjects are regulated, with the training provider or the certificate prescribed by law or by a designated authority; ASCB accreditation does not substitute for any statutory training requirement. For the far larger body of training that is not regulated in this way, accreditation is a voluntary mark of the disciplines behind the training, and its acceptability for a given purpose is confirmed in the same way as any accreditation.

ASCB recommends that all parties seek confirmation from the relevant regulatory or contracting bodies in the jurisdiction where services are to be delivered before relying on ASCB accreditation for statutory or procurement purposes. That is not a formality; it is the same check a prudent buyer performs on any accreditation, and we would rather you performed it before applying than discovered a constraint afterwards. Where your market is one in which ASCB accreditation serves your clients' purposes, the relationship is built on exactly that verified footing.

The full ASL(G)32 document, and ASL(G)30 on ASCB's affiliations, are available on request.

09 Next steps

If accreditation with ASCB may serve your organization, the next step is to send us the answers to the four questions in section 07, for a quotation, or the application form for your route: ASL(F)87 for provider accreditation, ASL(F)53 for course accreditation, available by request from admin@ascb.com. The terms of engagement and the confirmed quotation accompany the application invitation.

admin@ascb.com | +1 302 310 5048 | ascb.com

Your accreditation, once granted, is publicly searchable at ascb.com, and this pack's companion, the ASCB welcome pack, sets out the practical detail of the relationship from day one: describing your accreditation, using the mark and logos, and the accreditation cycle.

This document is introductory guidance for prospective applicants. Where it differs from ASCB's controlled documents, procedures or terms of engagement, those documents prevail.