

ICOCA Certification

General Instruction

The Secretariat has completed its pilot for ICoCA certification using PSC.1, and revised its guidance to companies for the submission of additional information. In addition, the Association recognized ISO 28007 on 15 Jul 2016 and will recognize ISO 18788 in the near future.

Now that the necessary processes are in place, any companies who have obtained third-party certification to a Board-recognized standard are encouraged to seek ICoCA Certification by submitting proof of their 3rd party certification and their additional information packages to the Secretariat.

All member companies should get certified to Board-recognized standards as soon as possible, with a target of 12 months from the AGA. However, in light of the delays associated with fully standing up the certification function, we recommend that the General Assembly approve a 2-year extension of the deadline for Members to obtain ICoCA certification using a Board-recognized standard. Assuming this extension is approved, all Members need to achieve ICoCA certification by September 2018.

Once a Member has achieved ICoCA Certification, that fact will be reflected in the ICoCA website. In that way, a distinction will be made between Members that have achieved ICoCA Certification and those that have not. The website will also show where members have certified to ICoCA-recognized standards on their route to ICoCA certification, identifying the specific standard and the area of operations to which the certification relates.

Strengthening the Existing Certification Process

The ICoCA recognizes that the existing certification process should be strengthened to better serve the interests of its stakeholders.

To that end, the ICoCA will work to ensure greater alignment, consistency, oversight and transparency of the process. This includes ICoCA improving oversight of certification bodies accredited by national standards organizations through guidance on assessor credentials and capabilities, interpretation of the Code, training, and additional oversight as required. The aim is to put in place these oversight mechanisms by the end of June 2017.

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Piloting Ways of Improving Access to Certification

The ICoCA seeks to ensure that certification is open to a global and diverse private security industry. The Association also recognizes that some Members have yet to seek certification under the current process and seeks to understand why, and what possible additional procedures might facilitate wider participation. To improve access to certification, the ICoCA will formally question Member companies on whether they face challenges under the current certification process and, based on those responses, will work with a representative sample of companies over the coming 12 months, to overcome these challenges and improve access to certification. Details of eligibility requirements for participation in the pilot will be promulgated shortly after the AGA. The Association aims to make the results of this pilot available by the 2017 AGA.

Summary of Indicative Time-lines

2016 AGA: Route is opened to ICoCA Certification via third-party certification to recognized standard plus submission of additional information.

2017 AGA: Results of pilot on ways of improving access to certification made available. Guidance issued on way forward for companies unable to access certification through the current route.

2018 AGA: Deadline for all Members to achieve ICoCA Certification. Membership on a transitional basis is no longer recognized, and all applicants must achieve ICoCA Certification to obtain Membership.
