

Introduction

- MAS Quality Certification (MAS) acknowledges the value that individual external auditors and technical experts bring to the auditing process. This policy outlines the guidelines and procedures for the utilization of external auditors and technical experts in compliance with ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015. It aims to ensure the effectiveness, integrity, and impartiality of the certification services for ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015, ISO 22000:2018, and ISO 45001:2018.

Objective

- The objective of this policy is to govern the selection, training, evaluation, and utilization of individual external auditors and external technical experts to assure the quality and credibility of MAS's certification services.

Policy Statements

Top Management Commitment

- Top Management is committed to the effective and ethical engagement of external auditors and technical experts and supports this policy.

Scope

- This policy applies to:
 - Selection and qualification of individual external auditors and external technical experts
 - Assignment of duties
 - Monitoring and performance evaluation
 - Conflict of interest and impartiality
 - Confidentiality

Selection and Qualification

- Candidates shall possess the requisite knowledge and expertise for the certification standards they will audit or provide expertise on.
- Verification of qualifications, such as credentials, experience, and competence, will be carried out before engagement.

Assignment of Duties

- Assignments shall be made based on the auditors' and experts' field of expertise, ensuring alignment with the certification scheme's requirements.

Monitoring and Performance Evaluation

- MAS will conduct regular evaluations of external auditors and technical experts to assess their performance and competence.

Conflict of Interest and Impartiality

- All external auditors and technical experts are required to declare any conflict of interest.
- MAS's Impartiality Policy shall apply to all engagements with external parties.

Confidentiality

- External auditors and technical experts shall be bound by the same confidentiality agreements as internal staff, as outlined in MAS's Confidentiality Policy.

Training and Continuing Education

- MAS will provide necessary training to ensure that external auditors and technical experts are up-to-date with audit procedures and the relevant certification standards.

Record-keeping

- All relevant records will be retained as per MAS's Retention of Client Records Policy.

Policy Compliance and Review

- Non-compliance with this policy may result in the termination of the engagement with the external auditor or technical expert.
- This policy will be reviewed at least annually to ensure its continued effectiveness and compliance with ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015.

Responsibility and Authority

- The Audit Manager, under the supervision of Top Management, shall be responsible for the implementation and maintenance of this policy.

Policy Review

- This policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure it continues to align with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015.

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Authorized By: Ms. Mervat Ali , CEO



By adhering to this policy, MAS Quality Certification commits to upholding the highest standards of integrity and quality in utilizing external auditors and technical experts in its certification services for ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015, ISO 22000:2018, and ISO 45001:2018.

