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National Accreditation Symbols - Transition Arrangements for the use of the Generic Management System Accreditation Symbol by Management Systems Certification Bodies

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1 Background and Scope

In 2007, in consultation with the then Department for Innovation Universities and Skills, UKAS introduced a new 'generic' management system accreditation symbol to be used by Certification Bodies accredited for any new areas of management system certification (e.g. Occupational Health and Safety and Business Continuity) that were not covered by any of the existing specific management system accreditation symbols. The aim of introducing such a generic symbol was to avoid the need to continue to create new symbols for each new management system certification area covered by accreditation. It was also agreed with the UKAS Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) that the generic accreditation symbol could be used to replace the existing specific management system accreditation symbols following appropriate consultation and an agreed transition period.

In April 2009 UKAS published the proposals for the transition arrangements and requested comments on the proposals from stakeholders. All of the comments received were supportive of the proposal to move to a single generic symbol but there were numerous comments questioning the need and value of the inclusion of the specific management system type underneath the symbol graphic. These comments have been considered carefully by UKAS, the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (formerly DIUS) and UKAS' Policy Advisory Committee and it was concluded that these comments were valid. As a result the generic management system accreditation symbol will not need to include a reference to the management system certification activity to which it relates.

This publication outlines the transition arrangements for the replacement of existing specific management system accreditation symbols with the generic symbol as shown in section 2, below.

2 Generic Management System Accreditation Symbol

The generic management system accreditation symbol shall be displayed as follows and shall be used in accordance with the requirements set out in the BIS Publication URN 09/1090.



3 Transition Arrangements

- 3.1. Certification Bodies (CBs) that receive a grant of accreditation for Management System Certification activities after 1 September 2009 will be issued with a schedule of accreditation containing the new generic management system symbol. The CB will only be allowed to use the new symbol in relation to its accredited activities described on that schedule.
- 3.2. Any applicant or existing accredited CB granted accreditation for a new area of management system certification not previously covered by a specific management system accreditation symbol, shall use the generic management system symbol in relation to that certification activity.

Note: Any CB using the generic management system symbol with a reference to the specific management system type underneath (as may have been previously advised) shall remove the reference to the management system type before the end of transition period (see 3.4)

- 3.3 Existing accredited management system CBs can elect to replace their existing specific management system accreditation symbol(s) with the generic symbol as soon as they wish after the start of the transition period, 1 September 2009. The CB shall ensure that they communicate the change to their certified customers along with the details of the time period within which the CB requires their customers to make the change (see 3.4)
- 3.4. All accredited management system certification bodies shall ensure that they, and their certified customers, cease to use the specific management system accreditation symbols within the **five** year transition period, ending 31 August 2014.
- 3.5 The CB shall only use the generic management system accreditation symbol in relation to the type(s) of management system certification activities that is/are covered by its scope of accreditation to ISO/IEC 17021.