

Monday, May 4, 2020

Dear ILAC Members

This email is to provide an update on the transition period for ISO/IEC 17025:2017 taking into consideration the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

As you would be aware the ILAC AMC is responsible for monitoring the implementation of transition periods for the Level 3 standards used by the accreditation bodies under the ILAC MRA. The AMC, as agreed previously, requested updated reports from the regions in late March and has provided the following update and recommendation that is now the subject of a 30 day referendum with ILAC Eligible Voting Members. We will advise all members of the outcome of the referendum in June.

AMC Review of ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Transition reports and impact of COVID-19

The members of the ILAC AMC have now reviewed the reports received from the regional cooperation bodies detailing the progress of the accreditation bodies in their region in completing the transition of the accredited laboratories to ISO/IEC 17025:2017 by 30 November 2020.

The AMC members agreed that whilst progress up until March 2020, when the data was collected, was typical for this stage in the transition of such a standard, given the now global impact of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak and subsequent health and safety measures adopted by most economies, the members of the AMC recommend that an extension to this transition period is warranted. This will ensure all accreditation bodies and the accredited laboratories are able to achieve the remaining transitions in a robust manner.

ILAC AMC Recommendation for extension of ISO/IEC 17025 Transition deadline:

The AMC recommends that the end of the transition period adopted as part of the ILAC Resolution GA 20.15 (November 2016) be extended from 30 November 2020 to 1 June 2021 to ensure all laboratories are able to be transitioned under the restrictions imposed as a result of the global coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak.

In addition, the Secretariat has been in contact with the ISO CASCO Secretariat to advise that the 30 day referendum is underway, as the *Joint ILAC-ISO Communiqué on the recognition of ISO/IEC 17025 during a Three-Year Transition* will require amendment if the outcome of this referendum supports the recommendation from the AMC.

Kind regards  
Annette

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