ISO/IEC 17020:2026 – Guidance on JAS-AU Transition Plan for Accredited and Applicant Inspection bodies

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ISO/IEC 17020:2026 Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies performing inspection was published on 27th March 2026. Following the transition from ILAC & IAF to Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated (Global ACI), a three-year transition period has been established for the implementation of ISO/ IEC 17020:2026

Accordingly, inspection bodies accredited to ISO/IEC 17020:2012 are required to complete their transition to ISO/IEC 17020:2026 within the applicable transition period.

Following the publication of ISO/IEC 17020:2026, JAS-AU has established this document to provide accredited & applicant Inspection bodies and others relevant stakeholders with information on the transition arrangements, requirements, process & overall timelines for the transition of JAS-AU accreditation to ISO/ IEC 17020:2026.

Date	Milestone/Activity
27th March 2026	ISO/IEC 17020:2026 published
March 2026 to February 2027	JAS-AU Preparation
1 March 2027	JAS-AU is ready to conduct assessment against ISO/IEC 17020:2026
1 March 2027 to September 2027	inspection bodies are requested to prepare and submit their action plans for transition
30 September 2027	Deadline for accredited IBs to submit their transition plans to JAS-AU
1 March 2027 to 31 December 2027	Accredited Inspection bodies whose surveillance/reassessment on-site visit is schedule during this period can choose to be assessed against either 2012 or 2026 version, subject to formally notifying JAS-AU prior to the assessment. In case the IB chooses to have its assessment according to the 2026 version; a
1 March 2027 onwards	New applications and Application for reassessment shall be accepted according to ISO/IEC 17020:2026 only.

1 January 2028 onwards	All scheduled surveillance / reassessments visits (including document review) of accredited IBs shall be conducted according to ISO/IEC 17020:2026.
27th March 2029	After this date, Accreditations to ISO/IEC 17020:2012 will no longer be recognized under the applicable Global ACI recognition arrangements. IBs that have not transitioned to the 2026 version by this date will be automatically suspended and only accreditation to the 2026 version will be valid.

Transition process for accredited Inspection bodies

JAS-AU plans to start the process of beginning Transition of JAS-AU accredited Inspection bodies to ISO/IEC 17020:2026 from March 2027. However, Initial assessments to the requirements of ISO/IEC 17020:2026 will be mandatory starting on 01/03/2028.

During the period of 1 March 2027, accredited IBs that have their surveillance/reassessment (onsite assessment) within this period can choose to be assessed to the 2012 or 2026 version by formally informing JAS-AU prior to the visit and in case the inspection body chooses to have their assessment on 2026 version a document review will be included

From 1 January 2028 onwards, all scheduled surveillance & reassessment visits shall conduct against ISO/IEC 17020:2026.

Accredited Inspection bodies are required to complete and submit a Transition Action plan to JAS-AU by 30 September 2027. Accredited Inspection bodies wishing to transit into ISO/IEC 17020:2026 are required to complete and submit Gap analysis to JAS-AU at least one month prior to the scheduled assessment, it is the responsibility of the inspection body to consider the extent and impact of these changes to meet the revised and new requirements in ISO/IEC 17020:2026.

Inspection bodies that have not transitioned to the 2026 version by 27th March 2029 will be automatically suspended after this date and only accreditation to the 2026 version will be valid. The accreditation will be suspended for up to six months until they can demonstrate that they meet the requirements of ISO/IEC 17020:2026.

During the transition period, accreditation granted against ISO/IEC 17020:2012 shall remail valid, subject to the applicable JAS-AU accreditation requirements & transition arrangements, until the IB successfully completes its transition to ISO/IEC 17020:2026 or until the end of the applicable transition period.

Accreditation to ISO/IEC 17020:2012 shall not remain valid after the end of the established transition period.

Transition process for applicant Inspection bodies

Inspection bodies that have already applied for ISO/IEC 17020:2012 accreditation and have not yet had their accreditation granted, may continue with the accreditation process to ISO/IEC 17020:2012 (after being granted accreditation, the inspection body shall abide by the transition process for accredited inspection bodies).

If the assessment has not been conducted by 30 April 2028, then the applicant will need to change to, and be assessed against, the requirements of ISO/IEC 17020:2026, with any mandatory findings being satisfactorily addressed before accreditation can be granted.

Inspection bodies that are considering applying for accreditation under ISO/IEC 17020 are encouraged to develop their systems and processes in accordance with ISO/IEC 17020:2026. Those that have already prepared an application against the 2012 version can still submit it, but should be aware of the dates specified above, and that they will then need to transition to the 2026 version before the deadline (submit the application before 1 March 2027).