regenagri certifications – assurance requirements

Certifications and verification services to the regenagri standards shall be carried out by accredited bodies. Certification and verification bodies (referred to as ‘CBs’) shall be accredited to standards applicable to the scope of services they provide (including, but not limited to, ISO 17065, ISO 14064, ISO 14065).

Certification bodies are approved by Regenagri C.i.C. upon an assessment aimed at assuring, amongst other factors, that the body has the appropriate expertise, technical capabilities, management systems and capacity to provide the services.

The CBs shall establish and maintain a regenagri program manual. The program manual shall include all the procedures and policies, as outlined below, to deliver the certification services as per quality, integrity and service levels requirements.

The CBs shall have a legal certification contract (within terms of validity) with Regenagri C.i.C.

1. Roles and Responsibilities of Certification Bodies

1.1 Purpose:
This policy aims to define and establish clear roles and responsibilities for CBs engaged in the certification process. It ensures consistency, transparency, and credibility in the certification activities conducted by Certification Bodies, in alignment with recognized standards and frameworks.

1.2 Scope:
This policy applies to all CBs involved in the certification of products, services, systems, or other relevant aspects within the organization.

1.3 Policy Guidelines:
   a. Compliance with Accreditation Standards:
   b. CBs shall operate in accordance with internationally recognized accreditation standards, such as ISO/IEC 17021: Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems.
   c. CBs shall obtain and maintain appropriate accreditation or recognition from the relevant accreditation bodies, demonstrating their competence and adherence to the relevant standards.

1.4 Independence and Impartiality:
   a. CBs shall demonstrate independence and impartiality in all certification activities, ensuring that they are free from any conflicts of interest that may influence their judgment.
   b. CBs shall have policies and procedures in place to identify, evaluate, and address any potential conflicts of interest.

1.5 Competence and Qualifications:
   a. CBs shall ensure that their personnel possess the necessary competence, skills, knowledge, and qualifications to perform their certification duties
effectively. The CBs shall periodically carry out a review of the personnel involved in the certification activities.

b. Personnel involved in certification activities, including auditors, shall undergo appropriate training, evaluation, and professional development to maintain and enhance their competency.

c. Certification Process:
   i. CBs shall establish and maintain a clearly defined and documented certification process that outlines the steps, activities, and requirements for certification.
   ii. The certification process shall include, but not be limited to, application review, documents review, on-site assessments, sampling, testing, technical review and decision making processes.

1.6 Transparency and Confidentiality:
   a. CBs shall ensure transparency in their certification activities by providing clear information to applicants and certified entities regarding the certification process, requirements, and outcomes.
   b. CBs shall periodically provide Regenagri C.i.C. with certification data related to applicants and certified organisations.
   c. Confidentiality of information provided by applicants or obtained during the certification process shall be maintained, unless otherwise required by applicable laws or regulations.

1.7 Monitoring and Compliance:
   a. CBs shall establish procedures to monitor and assess their own compliance with the defined roles and responsibilities, as well as applicable accreditation standards and regulations.
   b. CBs shall cooperate with relevant oversight bodies and undergo periodic assessments or audits to ensure ongoing compliance with the established standards.
   c. CBs shall establish procedures to manage claims, including applications and approval of claims.

1.8 Review and Compliance:
   a. This policy shall be reviewed periodically to ensure its relevance, effectiveness and alignment with the regenagri standards.
   b. All CBs, as well as personnel involved in the certification process, shall comply with this policy.

1.9 Feedback, complaints and grievances
   a. CBs shall establish procedures to handle feedback, complaints and grievances. Such procedures shall include requirements on communications contacts, timelines, review and response mechanisms.

2. Roles and Responsibilities of Accreditation Bodies

2.1 Purpose:
This policy aims to define and establish clear roles and responsibilities for Accreditation Bodies (ABs) involved in accrediting conformity assessment bodies. It ensures consistency, integrity, and credibility in the accreditation process, in alignment with recognized standards and frameworks.

2.2 Scope:
This policy applies to all Accreditation Bodies responsible for accrediting conformity assessment bodies, including testing laboratories, inspection bodies, certification bodies, and other relevant entities.

2.3 Policy Guidelines:
   a. Compliance with International Standards:
   b. ABs shall operate in accordance with internationally recognized accreditation standards, such as ISO/IEC 17011: Conformity assessment - General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies.
   c. ABs shall establish and maintain their accreditation processes in line with the requirements specified by the applicable accreditation standards.

2.4 Independence and Impartiality:
   a. ABs shall demonstrate independence and impartiality in all accreditation activities, ensuring that they are free from any conflicts of interest that may influence their decisions.
   b. ABs shall have policies and procedures in place to identify, evaluate, and address any potential conflicts of interest within their organization.

2.5 Competence and Qualifications:
   a. ABs shall ensure that their personnel possess the necessary competence, skills, knowledge, and qualifications to perform their accreditation duties effectively.
   b. Personnel involved in accreditation activities, including assessors and technical experts, shall undergo appropriate training, evaluation, and professional development to maintain and enhance their competency.

2.6 Accreditation Process:
   a. ABs shall establish and maintain a clearly defined and documented accreditation process that outlines the steps, activities, and requirements for accreditation.
   b. The accreditation process shall include, but not be limited to, application review, assessment planning, on-site assessments, document review, decision-making processes, and ongoing monitoring and surveillance activities.

2.7 Transparency and Confidentiality:
   a. ABs shall ensure transparency in their accreditation activities by providing clear information to conformity assessment bodies regarding the accreditation process, criteria, requirements, and outcomes.
b. Confidentiality of information obtained during the accreditation process shall be maintained, unless otherwise required by applicable laws or regulations.

2.8 Monitoring and Compliance:
   a. ABs shall establish procedures to monitor and assess their own compliance with the defined roles and responsibilities, as well as the applicable accreditation standards and regulations.
   b. ABs shall cooperate with relevant oversight bodies and undergo periodic assessments or audits to ensure ongoing compliance with the established standards.

2.9 Review and Compliance:
   a. This policy shall be reviewed periodically to ensure its relevance, alignment with evolving standards, and effectiveness.
   b. All ABs, as well as personnel involved in the accreditation process, shall comply with this policy.

2.10 Feedback, complaints and grievances
   a. ABs shall establish procedures to handle feedback, complaints and grievances. Such procedures shall include requirements on communications contacts, timelines, review and response mechanisms.