

GSTC Interpretation Document on GSTC Accreditation Manual v2.4 to Certification Bodies

Document(s) Referenced:	GSTC Accreditation Manual v2.4 (for Certification of Hotels and Tour Operators)
Document Section(s) Referenced:	11.3 Certification: Understanding and applying the international norms for certification
Specific Item(s) Referenced:	11.3.1 Skill Qualification 11.3.1.1 Formal training of ISO17065:12; or 11.3.1.2 At least five years as a decision maker with an ISEAL or IAF accredited certification body
Description of Ambiguity or Uncertainty:	Item 11.3.1.1 does not stipulate the meaning of “formal training of ISO17065:12”
GSTC Interpretation as of this date:	“Formal training of ISO17065:12” shall include training, in situ or online, by a qualified trainer, for a minimum of three hours focused training.
Rationale:	ISO17065 is an important reference throughout the GSTC Accreditation Manual; as such the CB decision-makers must be experts in adhering to it. The highest proof of their expertise is compliance of their scheme with the many specific elements of the standard as required in the GSTC Accreditation Manual. Any decision-makers joining the CB’s certification committee should be experienced or well-trained; GSTC leaves the specifics of that to the CB beyond the minimum requirement stated herein.
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