

Accredited Certification Bodies' Eligibility for the Certification Scheme-Certification Body Framework within the EU Member States

Purpose of the Document

This document describes the eligibility of certification bodies in the EU member states for the CS-CB Framework for the GSTC-accredited certification bodies (ACB). Kindly refer to the [Guidelines for CS-CB Framework](#) for the baseline requirements outlined in this additional document.

ACB Eligibility

- 1) Non-EU-based ACBs: There are no additional requirements other than the requirements described in the [Guidelines for CS-CB Framework](#).
- 2) EU-based ACBs: As the national accreditation bodies may NOT accept the GSTC-Recognized standards for technical scope extension as they would be interpreted as additional schemes and require another scheme assessment. Therefore, GSTC requires the ACBs located in the EU who want to work under the CS-CB Framework to follow the steps described below.

a. **The ACB's affiliate office outside the EU shall make a CS-CB contract on behalf of the ACB.**

- i. The affiliate office shall be a legally compliant organization and has conducted certification services for at least one year or longer.
 - ii. The affiliate office shall be listed in the GSTC accreditation application form. If the affiliate office was not included at the time of the ACB's initial accreditation or renewal, the ACB shall formally report it to GSTC, providing relevant documents, such as a contract between the ACB and the affiliate office outlining their GSTC certification activities.
- b. GSTC will issue the affiliate office an Accreditation Certificate for the certification under the CS-CB Framework, which uses the GSTC-Recognized standard as a Reference standard to conduct the accredited GSTC certification.
- c. All certificates against the GSTC-Recognized Standard shall be issued by the affiliate office.
- d. The affiliate office will not promote its accredited status to prevent any confusion in the market.
- e. The CS-CB Framework will not be made if no affiliate office outside the EU exists.
- f. Scope Extension Application: The affiliate office shall apply for scope extension and shall submit:
- i. Legal documentation for the affiliate office responsible for conducting certification against the Recognized Standard.
 - ii. A formal agreement defining the roles and responsibilities between the main accredited office and affiliate office.

- iii. Documentation verifying that auditors contracted with the affiliate office meet the required qualifications.
- g. GSTC will assess these documents as part of the scope extension process.

Surveillance and Renewal Assessment for the ACBs on the CS-CB Framework

- 1) GSTC will regularly require audit reports made to the GSTC-Recognized standards to assess auditors' competency to those standards and the ACB's management of the certification to the standards. (Desk assessment)
- 2) GSTC will conduct regular surveillance assessments of either the GSTC certification against its initially accredited reference standard or the additional GSTC-Recognized standard(s).
- 3) GSTC will conduct extra witnessing based on the audit report review result. The assessor(s) who conducted the desk assessment and the GSTC Chief Assurance Officer will decide whether an additional assessment is required. If significant issues are identified from the desk assessment and/or witnessing, GSTC may impose sanctions. When an affiliate office manages the certification against the GSTC-Recognized standard(s) on behalf of an EU-based ACB, the sanction will be imposed on the affiliate office, but the concerns will be shared with the relevant NAB that accredits the ACB on behalf of GSTC. If there is no NAB contracted with GSTC yet, GSTC will manage both offices and take the necessary actions.
- 4) ACB will bear the cost of the extra witnessing.