

1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 1.1 The Committee for the Protection of Impartiality is established to ensure independence, impartiality, objectivity and the absence of conflicts of interest in the certification of management systems in accredited and non-accredited areas and to exclude the possibility of discrimination against certification participants in any form.
- 1.2 This document establishes the main functions, rights, duties and responsibilities of the Committee for the Protection of Impartiality.
- 1.3 The regulation meets the requirements of ISO/IEC 17021-1 (and its current national equivalent) "Conformity assessment. Requirements for bodies conducting audit and certification of management systems".

2. THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF IMPARTIALITY

- 2.1 The membership of the Committee for the Protection of Impartiality is approved by the order of the Director.
- 2.2. The following stakeholders may be equally represented among the members of the Committee for the Protection of Impartiality:
 - a. Employees of the CB - no more than one person participating in voting or decision-making;
 - b. Client representatives of the Certification Body;
 - c. Representatives of state organizations – preferably ones who are of interests of state standardization in regions where CB's services are provided;
 - d. Representatives of CB client-enterprises;
 - e. Representatives of consumer-enterprises of CB's clients with a certified management system;
 - f. Representatives of key industries;
 - g. Representatives of public organizations (CCI, Associations of Engineers, Associations of Business Consultants, Quality Associations, Consumer Protection Societies, etc.);
 - h. Representatives of consulting companies - having a common opinion on the certification and consulting services, as well as their feedback on the degree of impartiality of the CB;
 - i. Media representatives.
- 2.3. Committee members should be persons who hold senior positions in organizations or have a high social status. There are no additional requirements for the qualifications of the Committee members.
- 2.4. The gathering of members and approval with the Chairman of the Committee of the date of the Committee meeting is carried out by the Secretary of the Committee, appointed by the Director or the Head of the CB.
- 2.5. The Committee for the Protection of Impartiality should hold its meetings annually, before an analysis of the organization's management system by senior management is conducted, and also, if necessary, unscheduled.
- 2.6. Meetings of the Committee for the Protection of Impartiality are considered valid if 2/3 of the Committee members are present.
- 2.7. The Committee's decisions are considered adopted if a majority of the Committee members present at the meeting voted for them. If the votes are equal, the position of the Chairman of the Committee is crucial.
- 2.8. The meetings of the Committee shall be documented by the protocol kept by the Secretary of the Committee. The records of the meetings are kept for at least 5 years.
- 2.9. Based on the results of the meeting of the Committee for the Protection of Impartiality, the Secretary of the Committee, if necessary, sends by e-mail the protocol of the meeting to all members of the Committee.
- 2.10. The meetings of the Committee for the Protection of Impartiality may be attended by employees of the CB or other persons (for example, representatives of the client, auditors, technical experts, etc.) as invited persons to highlight the necessary information. Members of the Committee for the Protection of Impartiality may allow invited persons to be present during decision-making and voting, otherwise the invited persons must leave the meeting.

- 2.11. Committee members should not make decisions/vote on matters related to enterprises,
- a. if they are employees of this enterprise;
 - b. if this is the enterprise where they participated as auditors/experts;
 - c. if they consulted this enterprise on management systems.

3. FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF IMPARTIALITY

- 3.1. The Committee for the Protection of Impartiality has the following functions:
- a. participation in the development of policies related to the impartiality of certification activities;
 - b. countering any commercial or other considerations that hinder the preservation of objectivity in the implementation of certification activities;
 - c. making recommendations on issues affecting the credibility of certification, including issues of transparency and public recognition;
 - d. identifying existing and potential conflicts of interest and actively managing them to ensure objectivity;
 - e. conducting an analysis of the impartiality of the audit, certification and decision-making process by the certifying authority.
 - e. conducting an analysis of the impartiality of the audit, certification and decision-making process by the certifying body.

4. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF IMPARTIALITY

- 4.1 The Committee for the Protection of Impartiality has the right to:
- a. require the company's employees to provide detailed information on issues that threaten the impartiality of the certification process;
 - b. interact with any authorities and organizations to ensure the impartiality of the certification process;
 - c. take any independent action (for example, inform authorized bodies, accreditation bodies, stakeholders), if the top management of CERT International rejects the recommendations of the Committee. In carrying out such an independent action, the Committee must take into account the requirements of Section 8.4 of ISO/IEC 17021-1 on confidentiality with respect to the client or Certification Body.
 - d. direct a representative to participate in audits as an observer;
 - e. a member of the committee has the right to contact the Accreditation Body on any issues on which he disagrees with the decisions., adopted by a majority vote of the committee members.
- 4.2. The Committee for the Protection of Impartiality is obliged to:
- a. to keep a balance of interests to ensure that the interests of no one concerned are dominant;
 - b. to ensure objectivity in assessing threats to impartiality;
 - c. to ensure the confidentiality of information obtained as a result of their activities;
 - d. to conduct their activities on a non-discriminatory basis.

5. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF IMPARTIALITY

- 5.1. The Committee for the Protection of Impartiality is responsible for the performance of the functions and duties assigned to it.

Head of the Certification Body Cert International
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