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**MEMORANDUM**

FOR : The Director  
Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau  
Environmental Management Bureau  
Mines and Geosciences Bureau

FROM : The OIC-Director  
Policy and Planning Service

SUBJECT : **REQUEST FOR REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION ON  
THE PROPOSAL OF A NEW ACCREDITATION SCHEME  
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY  
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (OHSMS) CERTIFICATION  
BODIES**

DATE : **05 JAN 2023**

This refers to the e-mail sent by the Philippine Accreditation Bureau (PAB) Secretariat last 15 December 2022. The PAB Secretariat is respectfully requesting PAB Council Members to review and approve the proposal of a New Accreditation Scheme Occupational Health and Safety Management System (OHSMS) Certification Bodies.

In relation to the subject mentioned, may we request for the recommendation of your respective office on or before 12 January 2023 via email at [psddivision@gmail.com](mailto:psddivision@gmail.com). Attached are the pertinent documents for your perusal.

For your consideration and preferential action, please.

  
MELINDA C. CAPISTRANO

<p><b>I. Title</b></p> <p>Proposal to launch the accreditation scheme for management system certification bodies operating certification of Occupational Health and Safety Management System (OHSMS) based on ISO 45001:2018.</p>
<p><b>II. Target Implementation Date</b></p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2023 onward</p>
<p><b>III. Implementing Unit</b></p> <p>Management System Accreditation Division (MSAD) Philippine Accreditation Bureau (PAB) Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)</p>
<p><b>IV. The Mandate of the Philippine Accreditation Bureau (PAB )</b></p> <p>Under Executive Order 802 series of 2009, the Philippine Accreditation Bureau (PAB) is the national accreditation body (AB) that accredits certifying, testing, inspecting bodies and other conformity assessment bodies that provide services needed by the country.</p> <p>One of its mission is to contribute to developing and maintaining mutual recognition of practical and effective conformity assessment activities worldwide.</p> <p>As one of the bureaus of the Department of Trade and Industry, its performance is measured by the implementation of the accreditation schemes it offers to its clients.</p>
<p><b>V. The Core Process of Competitiveness and Innovation Group (CIG)</b></p> <p>The Philippine Accreditation Bureau is under the Competitive and Innovation Group (CIG). CIG's role is to increase the country's competitiveness and ease of doing business.</p>
<p><b>VI. Mission of DTI</b></p> <p>The function of CIG supports the mission of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) as the main economic catalyst of the country that enables innovative, competitive, job generating, inclusive business and empowers consumers</p>
<p><b>VII. Target Beneficiaries</b></p> <p>This proposal for the launching of accreditation of OHSMS certification gives values and advantages to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. certification bodies</li> <li>2. organizations</li> <li>3. regulatory bodies</li> <li>4. service providers</li> <li>5. community/society</li> </ol>

## VIII. Background/Current Situation

The Philippine Accreditation Bureau (PAB) currently operates accreditation schemes for Management System Certification Bodies (MS CBs). But the scopes of this accreditation scheme, cover only the certification for Quality Management System (QMS), Environmental Management System (EMS), Food Safety Management System (FSMS), Information Security Management System (ISMS), and Energy Management System (EnMS). At the moment, PAB's accreditation program for Management Systems (MS), does not include Occupational Health and Management System (OHSMS) and other certification schemes for management systems available in the market.

The Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MRA) also includes the MS sub-scope of OHSMS. At present, the APAC accreditation member/MRA signatory bodies such as Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Hongkong, and Taiwan operates accreditation scheme for OHSMS.

What is ISO 45001:2018 and the objectives of establishing this type of management system in an organization? An organization is responsible for the occupational health and safety of workers and others who can be affected by its activities. This responsibility includes promoting and protecting their physical and mental health.

The adoption of an OHSMS is intended to enable an organization to provide safe and healthy workplaces, prevent work-related injury and ill health and continually improve its OHSMS performance.

OHSMS provides a framework for managing OH&S risks and opportunities. The aim and intended outcome of the OHSMS is to prevent work-related injury and ill health to workers and to provide safe and healthy workplaces; consequently, it is critically important for the organization to eliminate hazards and minimize OH&S risks by taking effective preventive and protective measures.

ISO 45001:2018 specifies requirements for an OHSMS and gives guidance for its use, to enable an organization to provide safe and healthy workplaces by preventing work-related injury and ill health, as well as by proactively improving its OH&S performance. This standard helps an organization to achieve the intended outcomes of its OH&S management system which include: (a) continual improvement of OH&S performance; (b) fulfillment of legal requirements and other requirements; and (c) achievement of OH&S objectives. This standard does not include requirements specific to other subjects, such as those for quality, social responsibility, environmental, security, or financial management, though its elements can be aligned or integrated with those other management systems.

ISO 45001:2018 contains requirements that can be used by an organization to implement an OHSMS and to assess conformity. An organization that wishes to demonstrate conformity to this standard can do so by : (1) making a self-determination and self-declaration or (2) seeking confirmation of its conformity by parties having an interest in the organization such as customers or (3) seeking confirmation of its self-declaration by a party external to the organization or (4) seeking certification/registration of its OHSMS by an external organization.

In the Philippines, there are more than 10 CBs offering OHSMS certification in the Philippines. The majority of these are accredited by PAB to other schemes i.e. QMS and EMS. Based on the 2021 Survey conducted by International Organization for Standardization (ISO), there are 400+ issued OHSMS certificates to the organization in the Philippines. The ISO survey also showed that a significant number of these certificates are issued in high-risk sectors such as Mining and Quarrying, Concrete, cement, lime plaster, Construction, Basic Metals, and Fabricated Metal Products, Transport, storage, and Communication, Power Generation (Electricity Supply), Chemicals, Chemical Products and Fibres, Health and Social Work and Engineering Services.

Furthermore, based on the stakeholders' engagement held recently by PAB-MSAD with its applicant and accredited MS CBs, these CBs confirmed that the OHSMS certificates they issued are also integrated with QMS and EMS. These organizations take pride in their 3 certifications through an Integrated Management System Audit (QMS/EMS/OHSMS).

However, if the CB is accredited by an accreditation body (PAB) only for its QMS and EMS certification, the CB can only issue "accredited" certificates for QMS and EMS and an "unaccredited" certificate for OHSMS. Issuing "unaccredited" certificates have the following consequences: undermines the market advantage derived from "accredited" certification, defeats the purpose of promoting the benefits of accreditation to the certified client and the end-users of certified products and services can cast doubt on the integrity of the certification granted to the organization.

The CB may choose a foreign accreditation ( in the absence of PAB's accreditation scheme for OHSMS) for the issuance of its OHSMS certificates, under an IMS. However, this may also result in the following difficulties and lead to unfavorable consequences: the maintenance of the 3 certificates can pose a challenge for the CB and the clients due to the different timings of the conduct of the audit, issue date, validity date, and surveillance audit schedule of the 3 certifications. This is costly and time-consuming for certified clients.

Thus, the CB's client in their frustrations may eventually decide to choose the foreign AB's accredited certification for all the 3 standards (QMS, EMS, and OHSMS) for efficiency, uniformity of both accreditation (i.e. all under foreign AB) and status of accreditation (all are accredited). Thus, the CB may lose the "PAB accredited" certificate even for its current programs, QMS and EMS.

#### **VIII. Rationale**

The launching of the accreditation scheme for OHSMS certification demonstrates PAB's commitment to its mission of *continuously providing an accreditation program that will serve the need of its stakeholders*. The *additional scheme aims to address the demand for PAB's accreditation in the sector of OH&S*. This endeavor also reflects that PAB is support the commitment of the *conformity assessment bodies' e.g. OHSMS CBs in realizing their clients' goal of establishing OHSMS for their organizations, employees, and their stakeholders*. The proposed scheme also *eliminates the CB's option to issue "unaccredited" certification*. Needless to say, the noble intention of an OH&S management system will be assured by "accredited" certification.

Accreditation of ISO 45001:2018 certification will also support the implementation of RA 11058:2018 which is aimed at enhancing OHSMS implementation in the country. *Assurance of the OHSMS implementation in the high-risk/regulated sector will be in place through the accredited certification issued by the certification bodies*. Overall, PAB's accreditation *gives organizational confidence not only to the certified companies but also to their customers, the regulators, the community, and society*.

Furthermore, with the added scheme, PAB widens the coverage of the application of its principle i.e. *through accreditation, the public will be assured of quality, continuing compliance, and improvement in the certification service offered by certification bodies*, not just for QMS, EMS *but also for OHSMS*. The added assurance through PAB's accreditation serves as a market advantage and provides a win-win situation for PAB and CB and its clients.

There is also an opportunity to take advantage of the significant number of issued OHSMS certificates to be transferred to PAB. This becomes an effective tool to strengthen the promotion of PAB's accreditation. In the end, the additional implemented scheme allows PAB to expand or extend its APAC MRA and IAF MLA sub-scope to include the accreditation of OHSMS.

#### **IX. Targeted beneficiaries**

The launching of the accreditation scheme for OHSMS certification aims to serve the:

1. Certification bodies
2. Applicant/certified organizations
3. Regulatory bodies

4. Service providers
5. Community/society

**X. Target deliverables and timelines**

Development of this new accreditation scheme adheres to PAB's procedure (PAB/P08- Extending accreditation program), in compliance with ISO/IEC 17011:2017 Conformity assessment – General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies.

Based on this procedure, a qualified program manager spearheads the development of new accreditation scheme. The initial step takes into account surveying the need of the industry, the number of potential, and interested clients, and the possibility of extending the multilateral arrangement (MLA) of PAB with the Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) and International Accreditation Forum (IAF).

The proposed scheme is then presented to the PAB Council for approval.

The PAB/MSAD designated program managers also reviewed the current policies, procedures, and documentation (i.e. application form, the checklist) of PAB to see if there is a need for development, revision, or updating. PAB also develops supplementary requirements (i.e. witness audit requirement, the scope of accreditation) in addition to mandatory requirements to support the effective implementation of the scheme. Desk research on other AB's practices and policies for possible benchmarking as applicable to PAB's local situation is also helpful.

Another crucial activity is the developing and qualifying of assessors and technical experts who will assist PAB in conducting assessments and witness audits for applicant certification bodies. Identification of accreditation evaluation panel members for an independent review of the accreditation process is also included in the preparatory activity.


Once approved, PAB will publish the launching of the new scheme to interested and potential certification bodies. PAB then accepts and process application filed by applicant certification bodies.

To implement this new scheme, PAB will use its existing internal resources as assessors and qualified external individuals as Technical Experts and Accreditation Evaluation Panel Members.

	Activity/Timeline				
	Preparation of documentation of the proposal for the launching of the accreditation scheme	Approval of the launching of the scheme	Preparations before the launching of the scheme	Implementation of the scheme through the processing of applications and conduct of office assessments and witness audits and granting of accreditation	Monitoring the performance of PAB accredited CBs through regular surveillance assessment
<b>Responsible</b>					
PAB Council		NOVEMBER 2022			

Program Manager/Division Head	SEP- OCTOBER		NOVEMBER TO Q1	2 <sup>ND</sup> QUARTER 2023 -	AS SCHEDULED
Assessors			NOVEMBER TO Q1	2 <sup>ND</sup> QUARTER 2023 -	AS SCHEDULED
Technical Experts				2 <sup>ND</sup> QUARTER 2023 -	AS SCHEDULED
Accreditation Evaluation Panel				2 <sup>ND</sup> QUARTER 2023 -	
PAB Director				2 <sup>ND</sup> QUARTER 2023 -	

**Prepared by:**

  
**Ma. Juanita P. Carpio**  
 Management System Accreditation Division (MSAD)  
 Philippine Accreditation Bureau (PAB)  
 04 November 2022

**Approved by:**

 10 November 2022  
**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR ERNANI M. DIONISIO**  
 OIC, Philippine Accreditation Bureau (PAB)