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NVT/QP/2/006: PROCEDURE FOR GRANTING, REFUSING, MAINTAINING, EXTENDING, SUSPENDING, WITHDRAWING OR REDUCING OF CLIENT CERTIFICATES

- 1.0 OBJECTIVE :To ensure compliance to requirements of ISO/IEC/17021/AS9104/1 and NABCB/ANAB guidance documents.
- 2.0 SCOPE :Covers certification to management system standards for which NVT-QC is approved for.
- 3.0 RESPONSIBILITY : CERTIFICATION MANAGERS, MR, CH/CEO, GM (O).
- 4.0 DETAILED PROCEDURE:

Sl. No.	ACTIVITY	REF. DOCS.	OUTPUT
1.	<p>Certificate is granted to a client organization after completion of certification audit and corrective action audit on the recommendation of team leader and approval by the manager certification and any other qualified auditor competent co-opted for a specific AQMS audit. Directory of certified clients is updated.</p> <p>No recommendation for certification shall be made until all nonconformities are satisfactorily corrected with root cause analysis and corrective action is implemented, reviewed, accepted and verified for closure within 60 days of NCs raised during surveillance/renewal audits.</p> <p>In case nonconformities are not satisfactorily closed, the certificate will be refused to the client.</p> <p>No unaccredited AQMS certificate shall be given to any client.</p>	<p>QMS Certificates NVT/FORM/4/014-1 NVT/FORM/4/014-2 AS certificates NVT/FORM/4/04-3 NVT/FORM/4/04-4</p>	<p>Checklist for review and approval of audit reports NVT/FORM/4/025</p>
2.	<p>Certificate is held by the client for a 3 year period subject to timely and satisfactory completion of surveillance audits and planned correction action on nonconformities if any. Use of certificates and logos during this period shall be as provided in the signed agreement and instructions. Proper use of certificate and logo is verified during surveillance visits.</p>	NVT/INST/3/007	
3.	Before the validity of the certificate		Directory of

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	<p>expires, a renewal audit is conducted. Prior to making decision for issue of renewal certificate for QMS, effective review is made to ensure that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Information provided by audit team is sufficient with respect to the certification requirements and the scope for certification. Any major non-conformity is reviewed, accepted and verified for correction and corrective action and settled. For QMS, any minor NC has been reviewed and the client's plan for correction and corrective action is accepted. For AQMS, any minor non-conformity is reviewed, accepted and verified for correction and corrective action and settled. <p>After completion of the renewal audit and satisfactory corrective action audit, on the recommendation of the team leader and on the approval of certification manager, certificate is renewed for a 3 year period. The list of certified clients is updated.</p> <p>In case of failure of the organization to demonstrate conformance of its QMS to requirements of the standard, or in case nonconformities observed during renewal audit are not settled as per b and c above before expiry of existing certificate, the certificate lapses and the and client's name shall be deleted from the list of certified clients including OASIS database.</p>		certified clients NVT/FORM/4/015 -1&015-2
4	Following expiry of certification, NVT QC can restore certification within 6 months provided recertification/at least stage 2 activities are completed. The effective date of certification shall be on or after the recertification decision and the expiry date shall be based on the prior certification cycle.	As per ISO 17021-1:2015	
5	If extension / change of scope or		

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	inclusion of additional site is requested by the client, a special audit is planned and conducted. On completion of the special audit and related corrective action audit, on the recommendation of the team leader and approval of certification manager, certificate is amended and issued. The validity of this certificate remains same as the validity of the previous certificate. In such cases, previous certificate will be withdrawn and destroyed. The list of certified clients is updated including OASIS database.		
6	In case a reduction in scope or in the number of sites is intimated by the client or is discovered during surveillance, the existing certificate is withdrawn and a new certificate with corrected scope/number of sites will be issued. List of certified client is accordingly corrected including OASIS database.		
7	<p>(a) An existing certificate will be kept on suspension in case of</p> <p>(a) client's non-cooperation resulting in unacceptable delays in conduct of surveillance audits (b) planned corrective actions on nonconformities, on nonconformities reported in surveillance audits not being satisfactorily completed (c) major/ repeated nonconformities detected during surveillance or short-notice audits (d) misuse of certificate or logo detected at any stage and (e) non-payment of fees payable to NVT-QC within 90 days from the date of invoice.</p> <p>Certification Manager, on the recommendation of the MR / lead auditor shall take a decision in this regard. In all cases the certificate will be initially suspended and the client will be duly informed. In situations a) to d) the suspension will be for a notified</p>		

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	<p>period decided by the Certification Manager/GM (O) of NVT-QC. In (e), the suspension will be for 30 days.</p> <p>The certificate may be restored after satisfactory completion of surveillance audit and/or settlement of all nonconformities within agreed period. Both suspension and restoration of certificate is notified in NVT-QC website/IAQG- OASIS database.</p>		
8	<p>An existing certificate is withdrawn in the following circumstances.</p> <p>(a) Required corrective actions are not satisfactorily implemented within agreed time</p> <p>(b) Short notice audits conducted following complaints from interested parties including AB's/IAQG members show serious lapses in implementation of the documented management system casting serious doubts on management commitment.</p> <p>Withdrawal shall be notified in the NVT-QC website / IAQG OASIS database. Return of the certificate and logo will be ensured</p> <p>Audits for restoration of withdrawn certificates shall be treated as initial audits.</p> <p>NVT-QC reserves the right to inform client's customers about suspension / withdrawal. In case of withdrawal, directory of clients will be duly corrected.</p>		
9	<p>In case reduction in scope of certification, steps are taken to ensure that the client.</p> <p>(a) Returns existing certificate and</p> <p>(b) Corrects any advertising matter/ publication where an invalid reference to certification is made.</p>		