



7 September 2018

Subject: Voluntary IAF Global Database

Dear ANAB Applicant and Accredited Certification Bodies,

ANAB, is writing to inform your organization on the development of the IAF Global database to house and provide an authoritative source for validating accredited certifications issued all over the world.

The history of this project dates back to 2014, and the project has gone through several successful stage approvals by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and its members.

The program was championed by the IAF's Database Management Committee (DMC) represented by Accreditation Bodies (including ANAB), Certification Bodies and Industry. The DMC then managed an independent third-party tender process. In October 2017 at the IAF General Assembly, there was a majority vote in favor of the development of a global database. A Limited Liability Company (LLC) was formed shortly after to oversee the operations and a formal agreement was formed with the selected contractor, Quality Trade, in May 2018 to develop and operate the database. Development is currently underway, the database has been officially branded IAF CERTSEARCH and, upon launch, will be accessed through the domain IAFCERTSEARCH.org.

The IAF CERTSEARCH has gained significant support from government agencies, industry and from all levels of the accredited network. While this is a voluntary database, the IAF CERTSEARCH has received early commitments and will launch with greater than 700,000 certifications in the database.

The value of IAF CERTSEARCH

Those seeking to verify an accredited management system certification issued by a Certification Body accredited by an IAF member Accreditation Body are currently limited with validation solutions. In some cases, it is impossible or impractical to check the validity of a certificate as there is no central location. The lack of efficient verification options allows for misuse and dilutes the value of accredited certification.

IAF CERTSEARCH will provide a single location for all accredited management system certifications issued by a Certification Body accredited by an IAF member Accreditation Body from all over the world, increasing validating efficiency and decreasing misuse.

ANAB is Now the Home of



IAF CERTSEARCH will raise the profile of accredited certification, increase the visibility for those who are certified, and improve the value and integrity of accredited certification.

IAF CERTSEARCH is a tool where users can validate accredited certifications in cases where the validation user knows the “company/organization name” or “certification ID”. Users will “not” be able to generate “lists” of certified entities as this could negatively affect certification bodies. Certification dates will not be visible, just an indication on the certification status. No Certification Body (CB) or Accreditation Body (AB) will be able to view a list of the certifications of another CB or AB.

IAF and its members are working to create the digital infrastructure necessary to protect, educate and promote the value of accredited certification. The initiatives will improve the value of accredited certification and will help grow the network of accredited certifications globally.

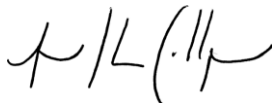
The advances to the accredited network will be done whilst protecting and enhancing the needs of your organization. CERTSEARCH will meet all required security and privacy requirements, whilst not increasing cost to the network, provided the initiatives are fully supported.

IAF member ABs were required to provide our list of accredited certification bodies, including information that is currently publicly available on ANAB’s directory. This information was necessary to lay the foundation of IAF CERTSEARCH. With participation in IAF CERTSEARCH voluntary for certification bodies, information on a certification body will only be included in IAF CERTSEARCH when the certification body has agreed.

In the coming months you will receive further communications from us in reference to IAF CERTSEARCH including a detailed information pack on how to participate in the IAF CERTSEARCH and information you can share with your certified organizations.

If you have any questions, please let me know. I have just been nominated to join the DMC and will gain more knowledge as time goes on that I will be happy to share.

Regards,



Lori Gillespie
Vice President, Management Systems