

For Immediate Release

TÜV SÜD America Inc. Approved for Accreditation to ISO/IEC 17021

Peabody, Massachusetts, August 27, 2008. [TÜV SÜD America Inc.](http://www.tuv.com) announced that they received accreditation from the [Standards Council of Canada \(SCC\)](http://www.scc.ca) and the [ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board \(ANAB\)](http://www.anab.org) for ISO/IEC 17021, the standard which governs the requirements for certification bodies.

In order to achieve accreditation, organizations that offer auditing services and certification to management system standards must adhere to rigorous requirements for competency and impartiality. Replacing and improving on ISO/IEC Guide 62:1996 and ISO/IEC Guide 66:1999, ISO/IEC 17021 specifies two major changes that will impact the quality and environmental management systems certification process:

1. The new standard requires a 2-stage audit process for the initial certification. During the on-site Stage 1 audit, the TÜV auditor will:
 - a. Review the management system documentation.
 - b. Determine readiness for the Stage 2 audit.
 - c. Review key performance or significant aspects regarding the scope and operation of the management system.
 - d. Collect necessary information regarding the scope and related statutory and regulatory requirements of the applicant's operation.
 - e. Plan the certification (stage 2) audit, including confirming audit team requirements.
 - f. Evaluate internal audits and management review.

2. ISO/IEC 17021 introduces a new requirement in regards to how minor nonconformities within a management system are handled. Under the new standard, a certification body cannot issue a certificate to an organization where minor nonconformities are present until it has reviewed and accepted the organization's correction and corrective action plan for resolving the issues in question. The existing requirement for closing major nonconformities remains unchanged.

About ISO/IEC 17021

Published on September 15, 2006, ISO/IEC 17021 is the [International Organization for Standardization \(ISO\)](http://www.iso.org) / [International Electrotechnical Commission \(IEC\)](http://www.iec.ch) standard that defines accreditation requirements that all certification bodies must follow. It replaces ISO/IEC Guide 62 and ISO/IEC Guide 66 and incorporates many of the current IAF requirements. The standard covers the demands for certification bodies and the principles of management system certifications, such as QMS and EMS, within an organization. The [International Accreditation Forum \(IAF\)](http://www.iaf.com) Technical Committee and General Assembly has set September 15, 2008 as the deadline for ISO/IEC 17021 implementation.

About TÜV SÜD America Inc.

TÜV SÜD America Inc. provides management system certification services to [ISO 9001](http://www.iso.org), [ISO 14001](http://www.iso.org), [AS9100](http://www.iso.org), [TS 16949](http://www.iso.org), [ISO 13485](http://www.iso.org), [TL 9000](http://www.iso.org), [Safe Quality Food \(SQF\)](http://www.iso.org), ISO 22000, and more. TÜV is a leading EU Notified Body for the Medical Devices, Active Implantable Medical Devices and In Vitro Diagnostic Directives. Testing services include CE Marking assistance, Mechanical/Electrical Product Safety, Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC), Environmental Testing, NRTL and SCC certification, Restricted Substance Services, International Compliance Services and more. Globally, TÜV has issued over 190,000 product and 30,000 quality management system certifications.

TÜV SÜD America Inc.
10 Centennial Drive
Peabody, MA 01960

Phone: (978) 573-2500
Fax: (978) 977-0157
E-mail: info@tuvam.com
www.TUVamerica.com



For more information, contact:

Gary Minks
Vice President, Quality & Regulatory Affairs
TÜV SÜD America Inc.
978.573.2521
gminks@tuvam.com

For editorial information, contact:

Laurie Willis
Marketing Communications Specialist
TÜV SÜD America Inc.
978.573.2509
lwillis@tuvam.com