

Interpretation Question:

To become a reviewer for ASC seaweed reports, is it sufficient to meet ASC farm standard qualifications or is additional training needed?

Requirements

ASC-MSC Seaweed (Algae) Certification and Accreditation Requirements v1.01

6.1.1 The CAB shall:

- d. Ensure that all technical reviewers and certification decision makers are experienced and qualified to evaluate the verification processes, working papers and associated evidence and recommendations made by the assessment/audit team (ISO 17065 clause 7.5).

Guidance 6.1.1.d

For reviewers and decision makers, CABs are reminded that the criteria of ISO 17065 clause 6.1.2.1 will apply. CABs will still have to demonstrate that the reviewer and/or decision maker is competent. One way of demonstrating this competence would be for the reviewer and/or decision maker to pass the online training module for ASC-MSC lead auditors, or attend the face to face training.

ISO 17065

6.1.2.1 The certification body shall establish, implement and maintain a procedure for management of competencies of personnel involved in the certification process (see Clause 7). The procedure shall require the certification body to:

- a) Determine the criteria for the competence of personnel for each function in the certification process, taking into account the requirements of the schemes;
- b) Identify training needs and provide, as necessary, training programmes on certification processes, requirements, methodologies, activities and other relevant certification scheme requirements;
- c) Demonstrate that the personnel have the required competencies for the duties and responsibilities they undertake;
- d) Formally authorize personnel for functions in the certification process;
- e) Monitor the performance of the personnel.

7.5 Review

7.5.1 The certification body shall assign at least 1 person to review all information and results related to the evaluation. The review shall be carried out by person(s) who have not been involved in the evaluation process.

7.5.2 Recommendations for a certification decision based on the review shall be documented, unless the review and the certification decision are completed concurrently by the same person.

Response:

Ultimately, it is up to the CAB to ensure that the ISO 17065 clause 6.1.2.1 is met and the ASC/MSC are not prescriptive in how that is done. However, based on the examples in Guidance 6.1.1.d of how competence can be demonstrated, it is recommended that seaweed training is completed by all technical reviewers and certification decision makers.