



Orion Earns ISO 17021 Accreditation Before Deadline

Orion Registrar is pleased to announce that we have earned ISO 17021 accreditation from both ANAB, the U.S. accreditation body and RvA, the Dutch accreditation body.

With the deadline for ISO 17021 only a few weeks away, just over half of the registrars/certification bodies (CBs) accredited by ANAB have received ISO 17021 accreditation. If a registrar has not received its ISO 17021 accreditation by September 15, 2008, both the registrar and its clients face severe consequences. According to Heads-Up 122, a

document published by Randy Dougherty, the Vice President of ANAB, "For any CB whose ANAB-accreditation is not based on ISO/IEC 17021 by 15 September 2008, the accreditation will expire, which means the accreditation is automatically withdrawn by ANAB and all ANAB-accredited certificates shall be withdrawn by the CB." In a similar vein, these registrars would also not be allowed to issue any new accredited certificates while their accreditation was withdrawn. This is true for all registrars, regardless of which accreditation body they use. The deadline was set by the International Accreditation Forum in consultation with ISO. ANAB's website contains a list of registrars that have successfully completed the transition www.anab.org/HTMLFiles/17021.htm.

While the withdrawal of a company's certificate is problematic in any industry, the aerospace is taking a particularly proactive stance on this transition. The International Aerospace Quality Group (IAQG) sent out a document stating "The IAQG OPMT will expect that all certification bodies not accredited to ISO 17021 on the 15th September to advise their AQMS clients of their accreditation status and provide information to certified clients to enable their transfer of certificates to ISO 17021 accredited certification bodies recognized within the ICOP process."

"Orion stands ready to receive transfers from aerospace and other companies whose registrars do not make the deadline," said Paul Burck, President of Orion. "We are confident that we can provide excellent service for these companies. We have already earned the loyalty of our current clients; last year more than 98% of our clients remained with us. We have also earned the loyalty of our competitors' clients; more than 25% of last year's new clients came from our competition. Orion has always been very highly rated by our clients for providing a service-oriented attitude and reasonable auditors," said Burck.

Orion Registrar is a quality and environmental systems registrar, headquartered in Arvada, Colorado with partners and associates located throughout the U.S. and the world. Orion specializes in audits to the following international quality and environmental standards; ISO 9001, AS9100, TL 9000. ISO 14001, ISO 13485, CE Marking for Medical Devices and the FDA AP program.

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