

Principles to guide schemes for the certification of Environmental Practitioners in Australia and New Zealand

*Endorsed by the Heads of Environmental Protection Agencies Australia and New Zealand
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Standard for Addressing Conformity Assessment

The certification body must generally conform to AS/NZS ISO/IEC 17024:2013 *Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons*.

Competencies for Specialist Areas

The certification scheme must clearly define the specialist area for which a practitioner is certified and align required competencies, and hence knowledge, experience and abilities with the tasks that a practitioner would reasonably be expected to undertake working within that specialty area to a proficient level¹.

Recertification

The certification body must reassess certified practitioners at a period of no more than every three years to ensure that the practitioner continues to meet the requirements of the certification scheme. Continuing professional development of the practitioner should form a key element of this recertification assessment.

Ethical and Professional Conduct

Applicants to the certification scheme must sign and agree to abide by a Code of Conduct committing to ethical and professional conduct addressing the following elements:

- acting with integrity, honesty and good faith;
- providing advice based on sound, evidence-based scientific information;
- avoiding and/or disclosing and managing conflicts of interest;
- maintaining and improving professional skills and knowledge;
- undertaking services within acquired level of competence and capability and seeking peer review where necessary;
- undertaking services in accordance with laws, regulations, policies and guidelines relevant to the service being provided;
- presenting reports in a transparent manner and avoiding any misrepresentation or obfuscation of information; and
- respecting confidentiality of information.

¹ This shouldn't preclude certification bodies from certifying practitioners at other levels, such as 'developing' or 'advanced'.