



## GABRIEL REGISTRAR'S TRANSITION GUIDANCE ARRANGEMENT FOR ISO 20121:2024 EVENT SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT

### Introduction

The revised ISO 20121:2024 is set to replace the existing ISO 20121:2012 which is a three year transition period. All organizations that wish to remain certified to ISO 20121:2012 will need to transition to the 2024 version of the standard within the set transition period which is ended in March 2027.

### What are the changes in the updated version of the standard?

#### Key Changes in this revision:

- The text, clause sequence and relevant definitions have been aligned with the harmonized structure for management system standards in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part1, 2022, Annex SL, Appendix 2. The change allows easier integration with other standards.
- The text has been improved to take into consideration: enhancement of environmental, social and governance (ESG) requirements; a reduction of negative impacts and maximization of positive ESG impacts; making the standard more user friendly and accessible.
- The revision has also included the addition of Climate Change considerations to Management Systems Standards.

#### Specific Changes to the requirements:

- New / revised "Note" explaining clause requirements are provided in various clauses.
- Additional Terms and Definitions on "Best Practice"; "Mission Statement"; "SWOT"; "PESTLE"; "Materiality Assessment" and "Double Materiality Assessment".
- Additional example of interested parties is provided in clause 4.2.
- Governing body has been considered in Section 5 as the "Leadership" of the organization.
- Additional requirements on Policy statement such as commitments, vision on long-term sustainable development objectives, and signatory requirements.
- Revision of clause 6.1.2 requires the organization to include issues such as climate change, environmental resilience, digital responsibility, human and child rights, mental health, wellbeing social impacts and diversity when identifying its sustainable development issues and to evaluate the significance associated with its event-related activities, products and services, within the defined scope of the event sustainability management system.
- Newly included clause 6.3 requires the organization to carry out proper planning for changes.
- Newly included Communication requirements in clause 7.3.
- Newly included clause 8.2 regarding Managing Changes and clause 8.3 regarding Supply Chain Management.
- Newly included clause 9.3.4 for performance evaluation.
- Updated Annex A regarding Interested Parties engagement.
- Updated Annex C regarding Guidance for organization to reporting.



- Newly inclusion of Annex D – informative section on Human and child rights.

## Transition Timeline

There will be a transition period of 3 years commencing from 3rd April 2024 to 31st March 2027. Initial certification and recertifications will be to the 2024 version from 1st April 2025 and all certificates must be transitioned no later than 31st March 2027. However, to ensure your business is suitably protected and you have a smooth transition, you need to understand the changes and the impact on your organization as soon as possible.

**Gabriel Registrar hereby inform all its clients to make transitions plans for their organization's transition to fully occur prior to the transition timeline.**

Transition Start Date	1st April 2025
Actual Transition End Date	31st March 2027

## Gabriel Registrar – Transition Cut off Dates for clients

Gabriel Registrar start date for conducting either Initial or Surveillance & / or Recertification audits for ISO 20121:2024 transition with 1 audit manday Gap assessment.	1st April 2025
Gabriel Registrar Cutoff Date for completion of transition for ISO 20121:2024	31st December 2026
Certificates for ISO 20121:2012 will no longer be valid after this date	31st March 2027

It is to be noted that for organizations that have already implemented standards based on HLS, Also, with 2012 version, organizations are also afforded more flexibility in terms of documentation requirements.

## Preparing for your ISO 20121:2024 Transition

Organizations must transition their management system in accordance with the requirements to ISO 20121:2024 before their transition audit is conducted. This should include any documentation changes, along with evidence of any new or changed process requirements.

Of note, organizations must conduct an internal audit and management review of the new/changed requirements prior to the Gabriel Registrar transition audit being conducted.

Organizations may have a transition gap assessment conducted by Gabriel Registrar prior to their official transition audit. This could be conducted in conjunction with an earlier ISO 20121:2012 surveillance, or at any other stand-alone time prior to their transition audit.



## Time Duration for a Transition Audit

All organizations must have a transition audit to confirm the implementation of the revised standard. The transition audit may be conducted in conjunction with an existing audit or may be a stand-alone audit.

If the transition audit is conducted in conjunction with an existing surveillance (i.e. transition surveillance) or recertification audit (i.e. transition re-assessment), additional time may be added to the audit duration in order to cover the new requirements/concepts introduced by ISO 20121:2024.

If a stand-alone audit is carried out for the transition audit, the duration be calculated on an individual organization basis.

**Note:** Specific audit durations for transition will depend on the actual situation of the organization including the organization's size and the complexity of the ESMS. Gabriel Registrar Client representative will advise you of your specific transition audit duration.

## Transition and update our Certification

Any types of audits, the given non-conformances identified during the transition audit will require a corrective action to be submitted and approved by Gabriel Registrar. An updated ISO 20121:2024 certification will be issued based on the given corrective action approval.

Updated ISO 20121:2024 certificate issuance and validity will be as follows:

### **Transition during surveillance:**

The organization's existing 'Valid Until Date' will be maintained. Means the existing certification cycle to be continue with same expiration of the certification.

### **Transition during re-certification:**

Transition re-assessment – A new 'Valid Until Date' will be issued for the renewed 3 year period.

### **Stand-alone transition:**

The organization's existing 'Valid Until Date / Expiry Date of the certificate' will be maintained.

**Note:** Guideline of Gabriel Registrar transition policy has been adhering with as per IAF MD document and circulars of ABs EIAC & UAF Transition requirements.



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

**1) We would like to train our staff prior to working on the transition of certification.**

To ensure you protect your business and get awareness for the transition standard requirements of certification processes, it is important to understand the changes and their impact on your organization operational control as soon as possible.

Incorporated changes in ISO 20121 awareness course and other related courses. We recommend you contact Gabriel Registrar Academy to schedule a training session.

**2) We are interested in transition audit; can we combine with our next surveillance audits?**

Yes, certainly; however it is essential to comprehend the modifications and potential advantages for your business in order to ensure that you are adequately prepared for a seamless standard transition requirements and effectively safeguarding your business in the interim.

**3) Are there other ways to complete the Transition Audit?**

You could perform the transition audit during the routine surveillance audit, during the recertification audit or a special audit. Please refer to the transition timeline.

**4) I am not ready to transition yet. What should I do?**

It is crucial to comprehend the extent of the modifications and the potential benefits to your company promptly in order to safeguard your business and facilitate a seamless standard transition requirement. This will enable you to strategically prioritize the implementation of the changes based on risk, schedule the transition at an optimal time for your organization, and allow for ample preparation.

**5) We need to identify what are the gaps before moving forward to the transition audit.**

Yes, we can conduct a gap assessment. We can identify the gaps in between the existing standard version with the current version. We allow to you fill those gaps yourselves and maintain in the management system requirements to achieve the transition certification.