



Ocean Certification Policy on Impartiality

Ocean Certification is committed to the principles of impartiality embodied within the ISO 17021 standard for certification bodies offering management systems certification. In particular reference is made to the impartiality of assessors in our internal procedures.

Ocean Certification retains authority and responsibility for decisions made in regard to its activities.

Ocean Certification is committed to not using its certification in such a manner as to bring the organisation into disrepute, and to not making any statements regarding its certification which it considers misleading or unauthorised.

Policies and procedures are non-discriminatory and are administered in a non-discriminatory way. Ocean Certification makes its services accessible to all applicants.

Ocean Certification does not provide certification services to which a related body has provided management system consultancy without analysing the work.

All personnel either internal or external are required to declare that they are free from any undue commercial, financial or other pressures, which could affect their impartiality. Personnel who have provided consultancy within two years to the organisation seeking certification are not employed to take part in any part of the certification process. Contracted personnel are required to reveal any situation which may present a conflict of interest. Unless no conflict of interest can be demonstrated, personnel are not employed as assessors.

Ocean Certification ensures that different people take decisions on certification (i.e. the Report Verifier) to those who carry out the assessment (the Lead Assessor).

No services are provided by Ocean Certification that might be considered as having a conflict of interest.

Ocean Certification does not assess or certify activities that it has itself performed.

Ocean Certification ensures that the activities of related bodies do not affect the confidentiality, objectivity and impartiality of its certification. Ocean Certification avoids any situation that would create a conflict of interest arising from the activities of any related body, especially if the related body might have a vested interest in the outcome of any assessment process. Head Office Administration personnel are responsible for signing the certificates as they are not involved in the assessment or decision making process.

Ocean Certification identifies and documents the possibilities for conflicts of interest arising from provision of certification whether they arise from within or from the activities of related bodies.

If a conflict of interest is identified Ocean Certification does not provide certification to any related body.

Ocean Certification ensure that nothing is said or implied that would suggest that certification would be simpler, easier, faster or less expensive if any specified personnel or organisation providing consultancy were used. Ocean Certification's activities are not presented as being linked with the activities of any organisation providing consultancy.