

Questions and answers - Information sessions by RvA about IAF CertSearch

How does IAF CertSearch interact with the databases that international and national scheme owners already have?

Some of the international and national scheme owners have a database, in which they make information about certificates available. If the scheme owner wishes, he can act as a link between certification bodies and IAF CertSearch. In this case, the scheme owner uploads information on certificates issued against its scheme for multiple certification bodies. To set this up, a scheme owner can contact the support team for IAF CertSearch.

For more information on whether a specific scheme owner intends to act as a link between certification bodies and IAF CertSearch, you can contact the scheme owner itself.

For international schemes that are IAF endorsed, it is expected that IAF will enter into discussions with scheme owners. A possible outcome of these discussions may be a link between the scheme owner's database and IAF CertSearch.

How does a certification body treat an ISO 14001 or ISO 45001 certificate issued in combination with the SCCM environmental management certification scheme or SCCM management system certification scheme health and safety at work?

Overall, the RvA sees particular added value in using IAF CertSearch for international standards and schemes. For national standards and schemes, this added value is limited.

For the SCCM schemes for Environmental Management systems and/or Occupational Health and Safety Management systems, the situation is somewhat different. Most certification bodies accredited with the RvA for ISO 14001 and/or ISO 45001 issue their certificates on the basis of the SCCM scheme. The agreement between SCCM and the certification bodies states that a certification body reports issuing this certificate to SCCM. SCCM includes this certificate in the database accessible via the website. This would also be the certificate that the certification body uploads in IAF CertSearch.

Other countries are not familiar with the situation, where an ISO 14001 or ISO 45001 certificate is issued on the basis of a national scheme. When the need arises from the international market for information on ISO 14001 and ISO 45001 certificates issued in the Netherlands in IAF CertSearch, this may be a reason for certification bodies to have the certificates included in IAF CertSearch as well.

How does IAF CertSearch specifically relate to the database that SCCM already has?

The agreement between SCCM and certification bodies states that a certification body reports issuing this certificate to SCCM. SCCM's website provides more in-depth information on issued certificates than IAF CertSearch and the information is more accessible. SCCM considers it important to continue to provide a complete and well accessible overview for the Dutch situation. Therefore, SCCM will maintain that a certification body reports information about issued certificates to SCCM. If the certification body also wants to upload this information in IAF CertSearch, there is no obstacle to this at SCCM.

When certification bodies indicate that they would like to upload information about certificates in IAF CertSearch, SCCM is willing to enter into discussions with the certification bodies. It may be possible for SCCM to upload the information about the certificates issued by the various certification bodies.

How can a certification body submit data in IAF CertSearch?

On the RvA website you will find a link to an IAF Brochure that provides more information on this. Further information is also available via IAF webinar. In it, IAF can take you through the process of uploading. The overview to the IAF CertSearch webinars can also be found via a link on the RvA website.