

Conflict of Interest and Impartiality

Introduction

Policies and procedures for Management System Certification and Certification ("Non-financial assurance or Certification Services") are described in our Business Management System Manual.

Policies and procedures on any other activities our organisation is engaged in are described on the PwC Australia Intranet.

In addition to the policies and procedures described below, PwC has also established an External Advisory Committee (EAC) to ensure that significantly concerned external stakeholders are provided with the opportunity to provide input to policies and principles regarding the content and the functioning of our Certification services. The objective of the EAC is to ensure the Certification and Certification system is proper and impartial. The role of the EAC is discussed in BMS Section 214.6.

Independence Policy for Certification Practice

PwC has established a Certification Services group within the Assurance Group of the Australian firm. The group will operate subject to the independence policies of PwC, as specified in the Business Management System (BMS) Section 113 relating to Independence, Conflict of Interest, and Impartiality, and PwC's Risk Management policies and procedures.

PwC is guided by the following policies with regards to its operation as an independent, impartial certification body. Conflicts of interest and sensitive client situations are established in PwC Risk & Quality guidance, Matrix Section 19.

PwC will not use staff, management, or contractors to conduct certification activities if they have been involved in any consulting (including internal audits) related to the organisation's management system certification, product certification, inspection or verification process, or those activities in any company related to that organisation, within two years following the end of the consultancy.

PwC shall require personnel, internal and external, to reveal any situation known to them that can present them or PwC with a conflict of interest. PwC shall record and use this information as input to identifying threats to impartiality raised by the activities of such personnel or by the organisations that employ them, and shall not use such personnel, internal or external, unless they can demonstrate that there is no conflict of interest.

Additionally we conduct an annual review of potential sources of conflict of interest and require all partners and staff to confirm in an annual independence declaration that they have acted independently throughout the year.

Conflict of Interest & Impartiality

PwC's Certification services are subject to the same conflict of interest policies, including:

- PwC will not offer or provide services that it certifies others to perform.
- PwC will not offer or provide consulting services to obtain or maintain certification services to those

organisations that PwC has certified.

- PwC will not offer or provide services to design, implement, or maintain management systems, inspection, or verification processes to those organisations that PwC has certified.
- PwC, together with its senior management staff, shall be free from any commercial, financial, and other pressures which might influence the results of the certification process.
- PwC will not certify another certification or verification body for their management system, inspection, or verification activities.
- PwC will take action to respond to any threats to its impartiality in accordance with the firm's policy for potential conflicts of interest.
- All PwC auditors working in the Certification practice sign independence declarations prior to charging work on client assignments.
- All external contract auditors, verifiers, subject matter experts, and technical experts working in the Certification practice sign independence declarations as part of their contract prior to starting work on client assignments to confirm their impartiality.
- PwC will not certify an organisation who has received consultancy or internal auditing assistance, and the relationship between PwC and those who provided the consultancy services poses an unacceptable threat to the impartiality of PwC, for a minimum of two years following the end of consultancy.
- PwC will not outsource audits to an organisation whose primary business is providing management system consultancy services. This does not apply to individuals contracted as auditors as they will sign independence declarations as discussed above.
- PwC will not state or imply that certification would be simpler, easier, faster, or less expensive if a specified consultancy organisation were used. We will not market or link our certification services with an organisation that provides management system consultancy services. In addition, we will take corrective action to correct any organisation that provides management system consultancy services if we become aware that they are stating or implying that certification would be simpler, easier, faster, or less expensive if PwC was used.

As a further safeguard of conflict of interest and impartiality, an Authorisation for Service (AFS) is an internal process that requires the Sales Managers or Certification Managers to obtain approvals before providing services to any client that is also a financial audit client of any PwC firm globally. The approval is granted by the PwC financial audit partner, who may or may not need approval from the client's financial audit committee before approval for the Certification services can be granted. An AFS is required annually for those audit clients. An AFS approval is only valid for a maximum period of one year.

Annual Review of Potential Sources of Conflicts of Interest

A review of the impartiality of the services provided by PwC will be completed as part of the annual internal audit of the Certification activities. This will also be discussed annually with the External Advisory Committee, within the scope of its mandate.