Information on the transition from IRIS rev.02 to ISO/TS 22163

UNIFE (Union des Industries Ferroviaires Européennes) announced in October 2016 the confirmation by Technical Committee (TC) 269 of the ISO (International Organization for Standardization) that the global standard for quality management systems in the railway industry IRIS rev. 02 will be replaced by a new ISO/TS version.

The new **ISO/TS 22163** will cover all requirements of ISO 9001:2015 and has been amended with additional requirements of the Operators and Railway Manufacturer. This Technical Specification is structured in line with the High Level Structure (HLS), promotes the process-oriented approach and requires explicitly defined processes. The software "IRIS audit tool" is still required for the performance and documentation of the audits. It covers an Assessment Sheet with more than 300 requirements, structured either as open or closed questions.

All organizations currently certified according to IRIS rev. 02 shall successfully make the transition by 14th September 2018.
Publication of the ISO/TS and the associated certification rules is scheduled for May 2017. The transition phase will start in accordance with the publication of the new ISO/TS. After publication of the ISO/TS it will be possible to certify companies according to the new rules, provided, that the implementation within the organisation has been performed minimum 3 months prior to the start of the (transition) audit. Also all related remote locations and/or site extensions shall be ready to be certified with the related certified company.

An Initial Certification according to IRIS rev. 02 is possible until end of December 2017 latest; Re-Certification audits theoretically until June 2018. But all IRIS rev 02 certificates (certification or re-certification) will expire at September, 14th 2018, independent if a later date is stated on the certificate document.
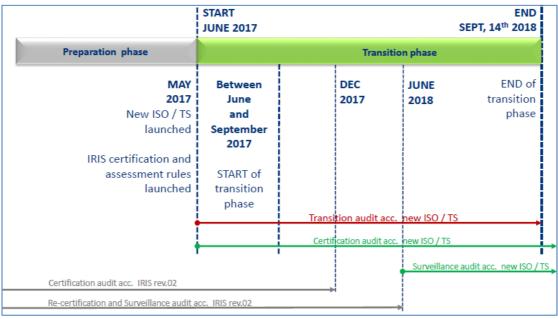
Table 1 - Transition timeline

The transition process includes the following steps:
1. Transition audit (readiness review and certification audit)
2. Nonconformity management
3. Certificate issuance

Upon successful completion of the transition process a new IRIS certificate with a 3 (three) year minus 1 (one) day validity period can be issued.

In addition to the issuance of the IRIS certificate, UNIFE will implement a performance based assessment for any certified company based on an evaluation approach. After a successful transition audit any company will receive a bronze-status, which can be increased during the next audits up to silver- or even gold-status, depending on the audit results. Vice versa a drop down to a lower performance status is possible. This 'performance level' will be visible in the database of certified companies.

The organization will have two options for the transition:

Option 1: transition process within their current IRIS rev.02 audit cycle; i.e. at the next planned surveillance or re-certification audit date.
- The transition audit shall be completed according to the updated IRIS rules for successful passed audit.
- The reference date for the organization is maintained.

Option 2: Transition process at any time i.e. outside the normal surveillance and re-certification audit cycle.
- Audit cycle is broken
- The transition audit shall be completed according to the updated IRIS rules.
- If organizations select option 2, it implies a period without IRIS certificate.

- The reference date for the organization will be defined according to the successful transition audit

As per today, the upgrade from other standards to the new ISO/TS will be possible and allows a reduction of the mandays needed for an Initial Certification. The required mandays will be published in the IRIS rules.

Existing certification			Applicable reduction in audit time
ISO 9001:2015	AS 9100:2016 and/or IATF 16949:2016	IRIS Rev. 02	Reduction of the total number of audit days of a certification audit according to ISO/TS:2017
X			Maximum 20%
	X		Maximum 30%
X	X		Maximum 30%
X		X	Can be reduced to the same number of audit days as for a re-certification audit
		X	Can be reduced to the same number of audit days as for a re-certification audit
	X	X	Can be reduced to the same number of audit days as for a re-certification audit
X	X	X	Can be reduced to the same number of audit days as for a re-certification audit

Table 2 - Audit time reduction

The audit day reduction shall not be applied and 100% of the required audit days for the certification audit shall be applied as defined within the IRIS rules, when:
- the organization scope is expanded
- a certified organization transfers to a new certification body
- upgrading from other standards not mentioned in the table X.

Furthermore it must be considered, that the certification body for the transition shall be the same like in the last IRIS rev.02 audit.

A change of certification body conducted parallel to a transition audit is acceptable, as ISO/TS transition audits are certification audits. However, as it was previously the case under IRIS rev.02, a reduction in the number of auditor days is not possible in these cases.

DNV GL recommends completing implementation of the new standard as early as possible in order to carry out a transition audit within the scope of the next scheduled regular audit (within the deadlines).

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact **your Lead Auditor** or the product responsible for the IRIS scheme, **Mr. Thomas Beck**, directly.
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