

## **Official Communication from the Technical Regulations Division (MCCAA)**

On 29/06/2022 the Commission published the "[Blue Guide on the implementation of the product rules 2022](#)". This Guide is meant for a better understanding of EU product rules and facilitation of their uniform application across sectors throughout the Single Market.

Clause 5.3.2.3 of this Guide states:

*"The harmonised standards of the EN ISO/IEC 17000 series that can be used to demonstrate the competence of the candidate notified body may vary depending on the specific conformity assessment tasks (modules) and the different products in Union harmonisation legislation. In order to ensure harmonisation of the assessment of competence of candidate notified bodies, the European Cooperation for Accreditation (EA) has developed a recommendation on standards for accreditation for each relevant Union harmonisation legislation and for each conformity assessment module. It is intended to apply to all National Accreditation Bodies that assess and accredit conformity assessment bodies for notification purposes, unless the notifying and/or regulating authority - at its own discretion - has officially established and published different requirements."*

The recommendations from EA are listed EA-2/17 [Document on Accreditation for Notification Purposes](#). The Technical Regulations Division supports this initiative.

Further to these developments, the Technical Regulations Division is officially communicating the following:

### **a. Transitional period for currently accredited notified bodies:**

The Technical Regulations Division (TRD) acting as the Notifying Authority for EU harmonised legislation falling under the Product Safety Act, has decided that the currently accredited notified bodies for Module B for the following Directives:

- Directive 2014/30/EU
- Directive 2014/53/EU

**will have a period up to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025** to complete its transition from EN ISO/IEC 17020 to EN ISO/IEC 17065.

In line with Annex B of EA-2/17, accreditation of Module B to EN ISO/IEC 17020 means:

- additional applicable requirements of EN ISO/IEC 17025 if testing is required. To this end fulfilment of the applicable requirement of clause 6 and 7 (except 7.9) in EN ISO/IEC 17025:2017 shall be demonstrated
- capability of and procedure for judging and deciding based on results of tests and/or inspections, if the essential requirements are fulfilled and/or the Harmonised Standards have been applied when required. To this end fulfilment of clauses 4.1.2, 4.1.3, 7.5 and 7.6 in EN ISO/IEC 17065:2012 shall be demonstrated.

## **b. New applications from Conformity Assessment Bodies**

Applications received from Conformity Assessment Bodies wishing to apply for notification as from 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022 will have to be according to the preferred harmonised standard(s) as stipulated in [Annex A of EA-2/17](#) unless any further communication is issued by the Technical Regulations Division.