



Public Consultation Benchmark Framework V2.0
Summary of revised components
Section A & B

Start: 6 April 2020
End: 5 June 2020

■ Introduction

This document provides a summary of all the changes to the GSSI Benchmark Framework v1.0 as proposed by the GSSI Expert Working Groups as part of the revision of the GSSI Global Benchmark Tool. The proposed changes are highlighted in blue.

The Expert Working Groups focused on updating and simplifying the Benchmark Framework while maintaining its robustness and its alignment with the FAO guidelines. The scope of the review focused on the following three areas:

Improvement of benchmark component language
Reduction of the number of components to reduce complexity
Inclusion of new FAO guidelines as supplementary components

The proposed changes are subject to a 60-day Public Consultation starting April 6 2020.

▪ Understanding the framework

GSSI's Global Benchmark Tool is made up of 3 parts:

- Benchmark Process: steps a scheme goes through to be recognized by GSSI
- Benchmark Framework: information on GSSI Essential Components, grounded in the CCRF and FAO Guidelines, which a scheme needs to meet to be recognized by GSSI and information on GSSI Supplementary Components, which show a scheme's diverse approach
- Benchmark Result: the statement of GSSI Recognition and Benchmark Report

▪ About the GSSI Benchmark Framework

The GSSI Benchmark Framework includes *GSSI Essential Components* which a seafood certification scheme must meet for recognition, and *GSSI Supplementary Components*, which allow schemes to show their diverse approach and help stakeholders understand where differences exist.

GSSI Essential Components

The GSSI Essential Components are grounded in the CCRF and FAO Guidelines. These are the full range of criteria, which a scheme needs to meet to be recognized by GSSI.

GSSI Supplementary Components

The GSSI Supplementary Components are defined by the GSSI Expert Working Groups and grounded in the CCRF and related FAO documents, ISO normative standards and ISEAL codes. Their purpose is to outline the status of existing practices in seafood certification and they can be built on going forward. A rationale for each GSSI Supplementary Component explains its value to both schemes and stakeholders. The Benchmark Process will verify if a seafood certification scheme meets GSSI Supplementary Components. Meeting GSSI Supplementary Components is not required for GSSI Recognition.

▪ Structure of the Benchmark Framework

The *GSSI Essential Components* and *GSSI Supplementary Components* in the Benchmark Framework are structured in four Sections:

The Benchmark Framework is made up of four Sections:



GSSI Essential Components and GSSI Supplementary Components
for **Governance of a Seafood Certification Scheme**



GSSI Essential Components and GSSI Supplementary Components
for **Operational Management of a Seafood Certification Scheme**



GSSI Essential Components and GSSI Supplementary Components
for **Aquaculture Certification Standards**



GSSI Essential Components and GSSI Supplementary Components
for **Fisheries Certification Standards**

The sections consist of Performance Areas, each of which includes Elements organised by Topic:



- **Component texts, Guidance section and reference**

The Component text is leading for Independent Experts to assess whether the Scheme Owner is in alignment with the components. If a Component includes a list of minimum sub-criteria (“all”, “at least”), all criteria must be met (except when certain criteria are explicitly noted as not applicable for a particular scheme).

Each Component includes a Guidance section. The Guidance is intended to assist the Independent Experts and others in understanding the meaning of the component text and how conformity with that component should be assessed. Examples listed in the guidance are suggestions and not exhaustive. The possibilities for objective evidence can vary depending on the type and structure of the assessed Scheme Owner.

Finally, each Component includes a reference to the respective instruments on which it is based, such as the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and FAO Guidelines, but also guidelines drafted by ISEAL, ISO & OIE.



■ Abbreviations

BC	Benchmark Committee
CCRF	Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAO Guidelines	FAO Guidelines for Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine/Inland Capture Fisheries; and FAO Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification.
GSSI	Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative
IE	Independent Expert
ISEAL	Global membership association for sustainability standards
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
OIE	World Organization for Animal Health
SO	Scheme Owner (Seafood Certification Scheme)
UN	United Nations

Section A: Governance

1. Revised components

Essential Component A.1.05 has a revised component and guidance text. To avoid that the requirement on complaint management is split in 2 components, **Essential Component A.3.07** will be deleted and integrated into the text of A.1.05.

Current component:

The Scheme Owner has a transparent process to assess complaints based on a publicly available procedure for resolving complaints related to governance, scheme management and executive functions.

New component:

The Scheme Owner has a transparent process to assess **and handle** complaints based on a publicly available procedure for resolving complaints related to governance, scheme management, executive functions **and standard setting**. **Decisions taken on complaints are disclosed at least to the affected parties.**

Current guidance:

Complaints procedure is documented and clearly outlines steps, timelines and responsibilities to address and resolve complaints.
The process for submitting a complaint - how and to whom - is public and easily understood. A process is in place to identify when and if the complaint is addressed and resolved.
Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:
- easily found complaint process and submission form online.
- documentation of existing complaints and their resolution.
- possibly request accreditation and certification bodies for previous submissions of complaints and resolution.

New guidance:

Complaints procedure is documented and clearly outlines steps, timelines and responsibilities to address and resolve complaints.
The process for submitting a complaint - how and to whom - is public and easily understood. A process is in place to identify when and if the complaint is addressed and resolved.
Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:
- easily found complaint process and submission form online.
- documentation of existing complaints and their resolution.
- possibly request accreditation and certification bodies for previous submissions of complaints and resolution.
- request and cross check with any complaints from stakeholders.

FAO reference:

[61] requires institutions involved in establishing and implementing a certification scheme should be transparent, credible and robust with good governance. [64] Requires the owner of a certification scheme to have clear written rules and procedures and decision making process.
FAO states in 147 [167] that the Scheme Owner is required to have available a complaints policy for dealing with certification, it is therefore considered a Scheme Owner should also have a complaints policy for governance to ensure good and robust governance as required by 38 [61, 64]. In line with Principle 2.4 combined with para. 3, and Principle [17.d], this policy should be made public.

Essential Components A.2.03 and A.2.04 will be integrated in **A.2.01**. The latter component will therefore have a revised component and guidance text, and the A.2.03 and A.2.04 will be deleted.

Current component:

The Scheme Owner has a publicly available policy governing use of symbols, logos and claims.

New component:

The Scheme Owner has a publicly available policy governing use of symbols, logos and claims. **This policy includes the provision of written authorizations or licenses to use the scheme's mark/claim/logo only when the facility and products have been certified to the relevant standard. Any misleading use or statement by the company regarding the status or scope of its certification, shall be prohibited.**

Current guidance:

Scheme Owner has a policy that covers use of symbols, logos and claims if applicable to its system. The policy is public, easily accessible and available in languages appropriate to geographic scope.

New guidance:

Scheme Owner has a policy that covers use of symbols, logos and claims if applicable to its system. The policy is public, easily accessible and available in languages appropriate to geographic scope.

Contracts or formal agreements with the certified entity specify legal responsibility for the use of the scheme's mark/claim/logo only when the facility and/or product are certified.

Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:

- publicly available Logo Use and Claim statement which is explicitly referenced in formal arrangement with certified entity.

- other examples include: direct logo agreements, licensing or membership agreements with the Scheme Owner or its commercial partner or indirect contracts/agreements through the certification body.

- in the latter case the requirements to include this in contracts/ agreements should be outlined in certification requirements/ methodologies or similar contract/agreement between the Scheme Owner and the certification body.

FAO reference: FAO Ecolabelling Guidelines for Marine Capture Fisheries 142 [or FAO Technical Guidelines for Aquaculture 162]. Creates an enforceable link between the use of claims and labels to the act of being certified.

Essential Component A.3.04 and A.3.05 will be deleted because it is redundant with the existence of Essential Component A.3.11.¹

Essential Component A.3.07 will be deleted because it is integrated into Essential Component A.1.05. See A.1.05.

Essential Component A.3.15 has a revised component and guidance text because the content of Supplementary Components A.3.15.01² and A.3.15.02³ will be integrated in this component and deleted.

Current component:

The Scheme Owner ensures that interested parties can participate in the standard-setting process through a consultation forum or are made aware of alternative mechanisms by which they can participate.

New component:

The Scheme Owner identifies stakeholders and ensures proactively that all can participate in the standard-setting process through a consultation forum or are made aware of alternative mechanisms by which they can participate.

This includes stakeholders that are not well represented in consultations and disadvantaged stakeholders (small-scale operations and

¹ **Component A.3.11** is as follows: "At the outset of a standard development or revision process, the Scheme Owner makes publicly available a summary of the process that includes:

- contact information and information on how to contribute to the consultation;
- **summary of the terms of reference for the standard, including the proposed scope, objectives and justification of the need for the standard;**
- steps in the standard-setting process, including timelines and clearly identified opportunities for contributing; and
- decision-making procedures, including how decisions are made and who makes them."

² **Component A.3.15.01** is as follows: "The Scheme Owner identifies stakeholders who will be directly affected by the standard and those that are not well-represented in consultations and proactively seek their contributions."

³ **Component A.3.15.02** is as follows: "The Scheme Owner makes efforts to address constraints to participation in standard-setting faced by disadvantaged stakeholders such as small-scale operations and vulnerable groups."

<p>Current guidance: The Scheme Owner has a mechanism is in place to ensure all interested stakeholders can participate in standard setting process through a forum or alternative mechanisms or tools.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment: - internal procedure/quality handbook defining public consultation process. - ToR. Review participation, communication and mechanisms/tools of past or current consultation.</p>	<p>vulnerable groups).</p> <p>New guidance: The Scheme Owner has a mechanism is in place to ensure all interested stakeholders can participate in standard setting process through a forum or alternative mechanisms or tools. The Scheme Owner has a mechanism is in place to identify all affected stakeholders. It makes sure that, when needed, alternative tools are in place to leverage potential barriers to participate.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment: - Stakeholder mapping including past participation - internal procedure/quality handbook defining public consultation process. - ToR. Review participation, communication and mechanisms/tools of past or current consultation. - meeting minutes, announcements, publications and or email communication indicate that the Scheme Owner is proactively seeking the input of specific stakeholder groups.</p>
<p>FAO reference:</p>	

Essential Component A.3.23 has a revised component and guidance text, due to the integration of **Supplementary Component A.1.01.02⁴** in A.3.23.

<p>Current component: Where a scheme is globally applicable, the Scheme Owner makes translations of the standard into English, French or Spanish freely available and authorizes translations into other languages where necessary for credible implementation of the standard.</p>	<p>New component: The Scheme Owner shall make translations of the standard into English and in the most relevant/appropriate languages to ensure access and transparency freely available and authorizes translations into other languages where necessary for credible implementation of the standard. Documents translated shall include standard setting procedures, most recent work program, draft and final versions of the standard.</p>
<p>Current guidance: The Scheme Owner has a mechanism in place to identify the applicability and need for translations based on geographical scope of certification, as well as the geographical range of certified entities and products. For global schemes, the Scheme Owner should translate and make available the standard in English, French and or Spanish and authorize into other languages to positively affect transparency and effective implementation.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment: - internal procedure, quality handbook, current language availability, work plans covering</p>	<p>New guidance: The Scheme Owner has a mechanism in place to identify the applicability and need for translations based on geographical scope of certification, as well as the geographical range of certified entities and products. The process includes an assessment in order to ensure accurate translation.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment: - internal procedure, quality handbook, current language availability, work plans covering language needs assessment, work plan of translations, process for ensuring accuracy of</p>

⁴ Component A.1.01.02 is as follows: "The Scheme Owner provides, within its means, translations into appropriate languages of its standard-setting procedures, most recent work program, and draft and final versions of its standards."

language needs assessment, work plan of translations, process for ensuring accuracy of translations.

translations.

FAO reference: Adapted from FAO Ecolabelling Guidelines for Marine Capture 53 [Technical Guidelines for Aquaculture 75]. Instead on naming specific languages as per FAO the requirement was writing to apply in only countries where scheme certificates have been issued. This is similar to ISEAL Standard Setting Code 5.7.3, and more practical.
Having translations supports accessibility of the standard for stakeholders

2. Glossary revision following review of Section A

Standard: a set of documents that provide rules and guidelines to achieve results and that include reference normative documents

Section B: Scheme Management

1. Revised Components

Essential Component B.1.01 has a revised component and guidance text. The date of the ISO norm is removed, to prevent update requirements. In the guidance text “Rules for Accreditation Bodies in Standard” is added as an example of enforceable arrangement.

Current component:

The Scheme Owner has a contractual, enforceable arrangement or formal understanding that requires accreditation bodies to be compliant with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011:2004.

New component:

The Scheme Owner has a contractual, enforceable arrangement or formal understanding that requires accreditation bodies to be compliant with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011 [in its applicable version](#).

Current guidance:

The Scheme Owner has a contract, memorandum of understanding or enforceable arrangement with a certification body or accreditation body that require the accreditation bodies to be compliant to ISO/ IEC 17011:2004.

Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:

- contracts,
- memorandums of understanding and/or memorandum of agreements between scheme and accreditation bodies or certification bodies that specify accreditation bodies to be compliant with ISO/IEC 17011:2004.
- accreditation bodies’ certificate of accreditation (on website).

New guidance:

The Scheme Owner has a contract, memorandum of understanding or enforceable arrangement with a certification body or accreditation body that require the accreditation bodies to be compliant to ISO/ IEC 17011:2004.

Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:

- contracts,
- memorandums of understanding and/or memorandum of agreements between scheme and accreditation bodies or certification bodies that specify accreditation bodies to be compliant with ISO/IEC 17011:2004.
- accreditation bodies’ certificate of accreditation (on website).
- [rules for accreditation bodies in standard](#).

FAO reference: The FAO Ecolabelling Guidelines in paragraph 64, 66, [Technical Guidelines for Aquaculture 86, 87, 88] require that accreditation is conducted by a competent body in line with the requirements set forth in ISO/IEC 17011:2004 [86]. An arrangement between the Scheme Owner and Accreditation Body ensures only competent Accreditation Bodies offer accreditation for their scheme. Paragraphs 67, 69-77, 79-84, 87-95, 97-99 [86, 89, 91-99, 101-106, 109-119, 121-123] are addressed through conformance with ISO/IEC 17011:2004.

Essential Component B.1.04 has a revised component text. Accreditation bodies is replaced by certification bodies.

Current component:

Subsequent to any changes in the requirements for assessing certification bodies, the Scheme Owner ensures certification bodies are given a defined time period within which to conform to the changes.

Special considerations should be given to accredited bodies in developing countries and countries in transition.

New component:

Subsequent to any changes in the requirements for assessing certification bodies, the Scheme Owner ensures certification bodies are given a defined time period within which to conform to the changes.

Special considerations should be given to [certification bodies](#) in developing countries and countries in transition.

Current guidance:

The Scheme Owner specifies transition periods for any changes to certification requirements (B.1.03) for certification bodies to come into compliance with changes. For certification bodies in developing countries consideration is

New guidance:

Unchanged

given that may include a longer transition period, capacity building or other measures.

Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:
- see B.1.03 reference to transition period and/or special consideration for developing country certification bodies.

FAO reference: The FAO Ecolabelling Guidelines for Marine Capture Fisheries in paragraph 95 [Technical Guidelines for Aquaculture Certification 119] require a accredited certification bodies are provided with a defined time period to implement any changes in the accreditation requirements, paragraph 96 [120] requires that within this process special considerations should be given to accredited bodies in developing countries and countries in transistion.

Essential Component B.1.09 has a revised component text.

Current component:

The Scheme Owner ensures that the accreditation process includes a review of the performance of certification bodies and auditors.

New component:

The Scheme Owner ensures that the accreditation process includes a review of the performance of certification bodies and auditors, [using witness audits](#).

Current guidance:

The Scheme Owner specifies that accreditation includes a performance review of certification bodies and auditors.

New guidance:

Unchanged

Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:

- accreditation/certification requirements/methodologies, accreditation body audit reports, audit schedule, specified in accreditation body or certification body contracts/agreements.
- agreement/contract between the Scheme Owner and certification body to use national accreditation bodies which are IAF members and signatories to the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement for ISO 17065.

FAO reference: Not specifically defined in the FAO Guidelines, however this is considered a requirement for good practice in accreditation of seafood certification schemes, in the GSSI Public Consultation and Expert Consultation Workshops. It is considered a necessary level of rigour of the accreditation audit to better assess the operations of the CBs.

Essential Component B.2.01 has a revised component text to avoid discrimination.

Current component:

The Scheme Owner requires that certification bodies operating in the scheme are ISO/IEC 17065:2012.

New component:

The Scheme Owner requires that certification bodies operating in the scheme are [accredited to conduct certifications for the scope of their respective standards in conformance with ISO/IEC 17065 in its applicable version](#).

Current guidance:

The Scheme Owner has a contract, memorandum of understanding or enforceable arrangement with certification body that require to follow the

New guidance:

The Scheme Owner has a contract, memorandum of understanding or enforceable arrangement with certification body that require to follow the

<p>principles of ISO/ IEC 17065:2012 for the scope of the respective standard of the scheme.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment: - contracts, memorandums of understanding and/or memorandum of agreements between Scheme and accreditation bodies or certification bodies that specify certification bodies be accredited with ISO 17065:2012; - accreditation manual or certification requirements/methodologies; certification bodies certificate of accreditation.</p>	<p>principles of ISO/ IEC 17065:2012 for the scope of the respective standard of the scheme.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment: - contracts, memorandums of understanding and/or memorandum of agreements between Scheme and accreditation bodies or certification bodies that specify certification bodies be accredited with ISO 17065 in its applicable version. - accreditation manual or certification requirements/methodologies; certification bodies certificate of accreditation.</p>
<p>FAO reference: The normative reference for certification in the FAO Guidelines is ISO/IEC Guide 65 (105 [127]). ISO/IEC Guide 65 is replaced by ISO/IEC 17065 as the international standard for conducting certification. FAO paragraphs 107-130, 133-134 [128-150, 153-154] are addressed through conformance with ISO/IEC-17065.:2012</p>	

Essential Component B.2.03 has a revised component text to clarify that the requirement is about the certification cycle prescribed by the Scheme Owner.

<p>Current component: The Scheme Owner requires that the validity of a certification cycle does not exceed 5 years in the case of fishery or 3 years in the case of aquaculture certification and 3 years in the case of chain of custody certification.</p>	<p>New component: The validity of a certification cycle required by the Scheme Owner shall not exceed 5 years in the case of fishery or 3 years in the case of aquaculture certification and 3 years in the case of chain of custody certification.</p>
<p>Current guidance: The Scheme Owner defines this requirement in the contract, memorandum of understanding or enforceable agreement with the accreditation body and/or certification body.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment: - accreditation manual/certification requirements/methodologies. Issued certificates with validity (online database or on request)</p>	<p>New guidance: Unchanged</p>
<p>FAO reference: This Essential Component was taken directly from FAO Guidelines paragraphs 131-132 [151-152] and draws a balance between a certification cycle that is not overly burdensome and one that assures continued compliance with the standard.</p>	

Essential Component B.2.07 has a revised component and guidance text. The new text should make clear that the Scheme Owner shall specify the conditions under which the Certification Body operates for multi-site certification.

<p>Current component: The Scheme Owner requires that accredited certification bodies have certification procedures and guidance for multi-site certifications if allowed under the scheme.</p>	<p>New component: The Scheme Owner requires that accredited certification bodies follow procedures and guidance for multi-site certifications as written in the standards, if allowed under the scheme.</p>
<p>Current guidance: If the Scheme Owner explicitly does not allow multi-site certification (prohibits, not that it is not</p>	<p>New guidance: If the Scheme Owner explicitly does not allow multi-site certification (prohibits, not that it is not</p>

yet developed or exists) requirement is “Not applicable”. Otherwise, the Scheme Owner requires certification body to have documented procedures and guidance for multi-site certification. Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:

- memorandum of understanding or enforceable agreement between the Scheme Owner and the certification body;
- requirements and guidance for multi-site certification requirements/methodologies specifying multi-site procedures;
- guidance specifying certification procedures for multi-site certifications, in order to support consistency between certification bodies;
- audit reports.

yet developed or exists) requirement is “Not applicable”. Otherwise, the Scheme Owner requires certification body to **follow** documented procedures and guidance for multi-site certification, **detailed in the agreement or in the standards**. Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:

- memorandum of understanding or enforceable agreement between the Scheme Owner and the certification body;
- requirements and guidance for multi-site certification
- audit reports.

FAO reference: This requirement supports consistency in assessment of multi-site operations, which are not considered explicitly under FAO however is considered important to provide guidance for this in order to be able to ensure an impartial and accurate certification system as required in paragraph 107 FAO Ecolabelling Guidelines for Marine Capture Fisheries [FAO Technical Guidelines for Aquaculture Certification 128].

Essential Component B.2.10 has a revised component and guidance text, to make clear that the Certification Body should follow requirements from the Scheme Owner, not solely have procedures.

Current component:
The Scheme Owner requires that certification bodies use a consistent procedure for determining non-compliances, verifying corrective actions arising from non-compliances and allowing for appeals of non-compliances.

New component:
The Scheme Owner requires that certification **bodies follow requirements for** determining non-compliances, verifying corrective actions arising from non-compliances and allowing for appeals of non-compliances.

Current guidance:
For accurate and consistent implementation of the standard, the Scheme Owner ensures that certification bodies have documented procedures determining all of the following: non-compliances, verifying corrective actions arising from non-compliances, and allowing for appeals of non-compliances.
Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:

- contract, memorandum of understanding or enforceable agreement between the Scheme Owner and the certification body.
- accreditation manual, certification requirements/methodologies.
- guidance documents, determining non-compliances, verifying corrective actions arising from non-compliances and allowing for appeals of non-compliances, in order to support consistency between certification bodies.
- audit reports.

New guidance:
For accurate and consistent implementation of the standard, the Scheme Owner ensures that certification bodies **follow** non-compliances, verifying corrective actions arising from non-compliances, and allowing for appeals of non-compliances
Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:

- contract, memorandum of understanding or enforceable agreement between the Scheme Owner and the certification body.
- accreditation manual, certification requirements/methodologies.
- guidance documents, determining non-compliances, verifying corrective actions arising from non-compliances and allowing for appeals of non-compliances, in order to support consistency between certification bodies.
- audit reports.
- **standards.**

FAO reference: Not specifically defined in the FAO Guidelines, however considered key component for impartial and accurate certification as required in paragraph 107 [128]. This is a requirement under ISO-17065:2012 8.7 and 8.8.

Supplementary Component B2.14.01 has a revised component text. The notion that the summary audit reports that need to be made available do not have to include commercially sensitive information is added here for consistency. This component is now in line with the wording of B.2.14.

<p>Current component: For aquaculture, the Scheme Owner requires Certification Bodies to make summary audit reports available on request after certification has been granted, that include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the date of the inspection/audit; - the name(s) of the person(s) responsible for the audit and report; - the names and addresses of the sites inspected/audited; - the scope of the inspection/audit; - the non-conformities identified; - the result of at least one mass balance assessment for each product covered by the Chain of Custody audit; and - a conclusion on the conformity of the client with the chain of custody requirements. 	<p>New component: For aquaculture, the Scheme Owner requires Certification Bodies to make summary audit reports available (excluding commercially sensitive information) on request after certification has been granted, that include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the date of the inspection/audit; - the name(s) of the person(s) responsible for the audit and report; - the names and addresses of the sites inspected/audited; - the scope of the inspection/audit; - the non-conformities identified; - the result of at least one mass balance assessment for each product covered by the Chain of Custody audit; and - a conclusion on the conformity of the client with the chain of custody requirements.
<p>Current guidance: Applicable only to Aquaculture. For Fisheries “Not Applicable”. The Scheme Owner defines this requirement for certification bodies to make summary audit reports, after certification has been granted, available upon request that include all of the information defined in the Supplementary Component. If the scheme does not allow mass balance, then that information requirement is considered aligned. Contracts with certified entities should clearly give notice of this requirement.</p> <p>Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contract/agreement between the Scheme Owner and the certification body, contract with the certification body and certified entity with this requirement, - certification requirements/ methodologies specifying requirement - guidance specifying the information to be included in summary audit reports - certification body website for posted reports. 	<p>New guidance: Unchanged</p>
<p>FAO reference: Builds further from FAO Ecolabelling Guidelines for Marine Capture Fisheries Paragraph 122, 124 [FAO Technical Guidelines for Aquaculture Certification 142, 144] which requires Certification Bodies to appropriate document available on request, taking into account confidentiality of information. This supports transparency and empowers stakeholders to understand the performance of an enterprise. This is in line with FAO Principle 2.4, 2.12 and 3 [17.e] which require transparency in all aspects of a certification scheme and communication of truthful information.</p>	

Essential Components B.2.20 has a revised guidance text for more clarity.

<p>Current component: The Scheme Owner requires that certification bodies include the following in their competence assessment of auditors:</p>	<p>New component: Unchanged</p>
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- an assessment of knowledge and skills for each fundamental area the auditor will be expected to be working,
- an assessment of knowledge of pertinent fishery and /or aquaculture Programs and the ability to access and be able to apply relevant laws and regulations,
- an assessment of the personal attributes of the auditor, to ensure they conduct themselves in a professional manner,
- a period of supervision to cover the assessment fishery and/or aquaculture principles, specific audit techniques and specific category knowledge,
- a documented sign off by the certification body of the satisfactory completion of assessment requirements.

Current guidance:

The Scheme Owner defines the requirement for certification bodies to include in the management of personnel competence (ISO 17065 clause 6.1.2) all of the elements in the Essential Component. Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:

- contract/agreement between the Scheme Owner and the certification body, accreditation/certification requirements/ methodologies specifying requirement,
- guidance outlining the system and criteria for competencies, training, etc. (see B.2.17-B2.19, 21-22),
- auditor assessment and training records,
- auditor CVs,
- accreditation body reports.

New guidance:

The Scheme Owner defines the requirement for certification bodies to include **all the elements in the Essential Component** in the management of personnel competence (ISO 17065 clause 6.1.2).

Examples of evidence for scheme alignment:

- contract/agreement between the Scheme Owner and the certification body, accreditation/certification requirements/ methodologies specifying requirement,
- guidance outlining the system and criteria for competencies, training, etc. (see B.2.17-B2.19, 21-22),
- auditor assessment and training records,
- auditor CVs,
- accreditation body reports.

FAO reference: Builds from FAO Ecolabelling Guidelines for Marine Capture Fisheries paragraph 114 [Technical Guidelines for Aquaculture Certification 137] which require that personnel are employed that have the necessary education, training, technical knowledge and experience. Assessment of such qualification and competence criteria should be consistent for all certification bodies in order to ensure impartial and accurate certification as required in paragraph 107 [128]. The Scheme Owner is the only body that can ensure this consistency by defining rules and regulations under which a certification body or entity is required to operate as required in paragraph [65]. All of the above is in line with principle 2.7 [17.i] of establishing clear accountability and responsibility for Scheme Owners, Certification Bodies and Accreditation Bodies.

Throughout Section B, the word enterprise is replaced with the word entity. For example, the changes in the component text in **Essential Components B.2.12, B.3.05 & B.3.09** have been revised as follows:

Current component B.2.12:

The Scheme Owner requires that a list of certified enterprises is made publicly available.

New component B.2.12:

The Scheme Owner requires that a list of certified **entities** is made publicly available.

Current component B.3.05:

The Scheme Owner has or requires certification bodies to have documented procedures for auditing methods and frequency of audits that meet the following requirements:

- certificate validity does not exceed 3 years;
- periodicity depends on risk factors

New component B.3.05:

The Scheme Owner has or requires certification bodies to have documented procedures for auditing methods and frequency of audits that meet the following requirements:

- certificate validity does not exceed 3 years;
- periodicity depends on risk factors

- changes to an enterprise traceability system that are deemed to affect the integrity of the Chain of Custody result in a re-audit (onsite).

- changes to an **entities** traceability system that are deemed to affect the integrity of the Chain of Custody result in a re-audit (onsite)

Current component B.3.09:

The Scheme Owner requires that an enterprise keeps records that demonstrate conformity with the Chain of Custody requirements for a period that:

- exceeds the shelf life of the certified product; and
- exceeds the periodicity between audits.

New component B.3.09:

The Scheme Owner requires that **a certified entity** keeps records that demonstrate conformity with the Chain of Custody requirements for a period that:

- exceeds the shelf life of the certified product; and
- exceeds the periodicity between audits.