

## GSTC Interpretation Document on the GSTC Accreditation Manual v2.5

<b>Date:</b>	02 <sup>th</sup> February 2023
<b>To</b>	Accredited Certification Bodies and applicants for Accreditation  Cc: Assurance Service International
<b>Document(s) Referenced:</b>	GSTC Accreditation Manual v2.5 dated 27 April 2021
<b>Document Section(s) Referenced:</b>	8. Conformity with GSTC Requirements 8.5. Requirements for the application of ISO 17065 ISO 17065:2012 7.4 Evaluation
<b>Specific clause (s) Referenced:</b>	8.5.12. GSTC Requirements to ISO 17065:2012 Clause 7.4.3 8.5.12.1. At each audit, the CB shall use an audit checklist/evaluation tool which includes all criteria and indicators of the Reference Standard and requires the completion, for each criterion, of the auditor's conclusion (conform, not conform or not assessed), based on evidence obtained from the audit process.
<b>Description of Ambiguity or Uncertainty:</b>	GSTC recognizes that there is some confusion in the field due to different interpretations among Certification Bodies regarding the evaluation tasks specified in the GSTC Accreditation Manual v2.5.
<b>GSTC Interpretation as of this date:</b>	GSTC hereby states that CBs shall use both Criteria and Indicators as elements of audit checklist but shall make conformity decisions per criterion not per indicator.  1. CB that certifies to the GSTC Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Audit checklist/evaluation tool includes all GSC Criteria and Indicators</li> <li>- Conformity decisions are made for each criterion not each indicator.</li> </ul> 2. CB that certifies to a GSTC Recognized Standard <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Audit checklist/evaluation tool includes all criteria equivalent to the GSTC Criteria and the Reference Standard's indicators.</li> <li>- Conformity decision is made for each criterion equivalent to the GSTC Criterion.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Decisions to its additional criteria and indicators will follow the CB's certification requirements.</li></ul>
<b>Rationale:</b>	<p>GSTC Indicators provide good interpretation of what evidence is required for each criterion but may not cover all requirements of the criterion as each GSTC criterion has multiple components. Therefore, auditing to the GSTC Criteria requires using both Criteria and indicators as checklist but audit decisions should be made per criterion, not indicator so as to make sure the requirements of each criterion are checked by evidence.</p>

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