GAQM
Global Association for Quality Management



ISO/IEC 17024:2026 – Certified Lead Auditor

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ISO/IEC 17024:2026 – Certified Lead Auditor - Certification Overview

The ISO/IEC 17024:2026 Certified Lead Auditor Certification is a professional personnel certification designed to recognize individuals who demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and competence required to plan, conduct, manage, and report audits effectively. ISO/IEC 17024:2026 is an international standard that establishes requirements for organizations providing certification of persons, ensuring that certification processes are impartial, consistent, transparent, and competence-based. It provides a framework for internationally credible professional certification and recognition of individual competencies.

The Certified Lead Auditor certification evaluates an individual's understanding of audit principles, audit planning, risk-based auditing, applicable standards and regulatory requirements, evidence collection, audit interviews, nonconformity identification, corrective action verification, and audit reporting. Certified professionals are expected to demonstrate the ability to lead audit teams, manage audit activities, communicate audit findings, and ensure that audits are conducted systematically and effectively in accordance with the applicable audit criteria and certification scheme requirements.

Achieving the Certified Lead Auditor credential demonstrates professional competence and commitment to quality, compliance, continual improvement, and effective audit management. The certification can enhance career opportunities in quality assurance, compliance, auditing, consultancy, and management systems across various industries. Certification should be awarded through a competent personnel certification body operating under an appropriate ISO/IEC 17024:2026 accreditation and certification scheme, following its defined eligibility, assessment, examination, and certification requirements.

Target Audience

The ISO/IEC 17024:2026 Certified Lead Auditor certification is suitable for quality assurance professionals, quality managers, internal auditors, lead auditors, compliance officers, management system consultants, certification and assessment professionals, risk management professionals, department heads, senior managers, health, safety and environmental (HSE) professionals, aspiring auditors, industry experts, engineers, technical specialists, trainers, and educators. It is particularly beneficial for individuals involved in auditing, quality management, regulatory compliance, conformity assessment, risk evaluation, process improvement, and management system implementation who wish to enhance their professional competence, strengthen their auditing capabilities, and advance their careers in auditing and certification.

What Modules are covered?

Module 1: Introduction to ISO/IEC 17024:2026 and Certification Principles

- Overview and purpose of ISO/IEC 17024:2026.
- Scope and application of personnel certification.
- Fundamental principles of personnel certification.
- Competence, qualification, and professional requirements.
- Impartiality, confidentiality, and ethical practices.
- Roles and responsibilities of certification bodies.
- Accreditation and international recognition.

Module 2: Certification Scheme Development and Management

- Understanding personnel certification schemes.
- Identification of certification requirements.
- Defining job roles and competency requirements.
- Establishing eligibility criteria.
- Examination and assessment methodologies.
- Certification decision-making processes.
- Recertification, renewal, suspension, and withdrawal.
- Maintaining certification records.

Module 3: Auditing Principles and Lead Auditor Responsibilities

- Introduction to auditing principles and methodologies.
- Roles and responsibilities of lead auditors.
- Audit planning, scope, objectives, and criteria.
- Audit team selection and competency evaluation.
- Risk-based audit approach.
- Audit programmes and schedules.
- Audit communication and coordination.
- Professional conduct and auditor ethics.

Module 4: Audit Execution and Evidence Evaluation

- Conducting opening meetings.
- Document and record reviews.
- Audit interviews and communication techniques.
- Evidence collection and verification.
- Sampling techniques and audit trails.
- Identification and classification of nonconformities.
- Evaluation of audit findings.
- Conducting closing meetings.

Module 5: Audit Reporting, Corrective Actions and Follow-up

- Preparation of audit reports.
- Documentation of audit findings.
- Classification of major and minor nonconformities, where applicable.
- Root cause analysis techniques.
- Corrective action planning and implementation.
- Verification of corrective actions.
- Follow-up audits and closure of findings.
- Audit report review and approval.

Module 6: Professional Competence, Assessment and Certification

- Competence requirements for lead auditors.
- Professional ethics and impartiality.
- Auditor performance evaluation.
- Examination and assessment techniques.
- Practical audit exercises and case studies.
- Preparation and presentation of audit reports.
- Certification requirements and decision-making.
- Continuing professional development and recertification.