



**International
Standard**

ISO 16919

**Space data and information transfer
systems — Requirements for bodies
providing audit and certification
of candidate trustworthy digital
repositories**

*Systèmes de transfert des informations et données spatiales
Exigences pour les organismes d'audit et de certification des
référentiels numériques potentiellement de confiance*

**Second edition
2025-03**

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Foreword

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This document was prepared by the Consultative Committee for Space Data Systems (CCSDS) (as CCSDS 652.1-M-3, December 2024) and drafted in accordance with its editorial rules. It was assigned to Technical Committee ISO/TC 20, *Aircraft and space vehicles*, Subcommittee SC 13, *Space data and information transfer systems* and adopted under the "fast-track procedure".

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 16919:2014), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- updated references to latest versions of documents, ISO 17021:2015, ISO 16363 and ISO 14721;
- updated to be consistent with the structure of the latest version of ISO 17021-1, for example, removal of section 8.3 Directory of Certified Clients;
- clarified use of remotes audits in Section 9;
- added CCSDS required subsections in Annex B.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

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REQUIREMENTS FOR BODIES PROVIDING AUDIT AND CERTIFICATION OF CANDIDATE TRUSTWORTHY DIGITAL REPOSITORIES

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE

The main purpose of this document is to define a CCSDS Recommended Practice (and ISO standard) on which to base the operations of the organization(s) which assess the trustworthiness of digital repositories using the latest version of CCSDS 652.0/ISO 16363 (reference [1]) and provide the appropriate certification. This document specifies requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of digital repositories, based on the metrics contained within ISO/IEC 17021-1 (reference [4]) and reference [1]. It is primarily intended to support the accreditation of bodies providing such certification.

ISO/IEC 17021-1 provides the bulk of the requirements on bodies offering audit and certification for general types of management systems. However, for each specific type of system, specific additional requirements will be needed, for example, to specify the standard against which the audit is to be made and the qualifications which auditors require.

This document provides the (small number of) specific additions required for bodies providing audit and certification of candidate trustworthy digital repositories. Trustworthy here means that they can be trusted to maintain, over the long-term, the understandability and usability of digitally encoded information placed into their safekeeping.

In order to improve readability the section numbers are kept consistent with those of ISO/IEC 17021-1. Some subsections are applicable as they stand, and these are simply enumerated; otherwise additions to subsections are explicitly given. In the former case the sections may consist of just a few sentences. As a result this document must be read in conjunction with ISO/IEC 17021-1.

1.2 SCOPE

The requirements contained in this CCSDS Recommended Practice need to be demonstrated in terms of competence and reliability by any organization or body providing certification of digital repositories.

1.3 APPLICABILITY

This document is meant primarily for those setting up and managing the organization performing the auditing and certification of digital repositories.

It should also be of use to those who work in or are responsible for digital repositories seeking objective measurement of the trustworthiness of their repository and wishing to understand the processes involved.

1.4 RATIONALE

There is a hierarchy of standards concerned with good auditing practice (references [3]-[5]). This document is positioned within this hierarchy in order to ensure that these good practices can be applied to the evaluation of the trustworthiness of digital repositories.

ISO/IEC 17021-1 *Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems* (reference [5]) is an International Standard which sets out criteria for bodies operating audit and certification of organizations' management systems. If such bodies are to be accredited as complying with ISO/IEC 17021-1 with the objective of auditing and certifying candidate trustworthy digital repositories in accordance with reference [1], some requirements that are additional to ISO/IEC 17021-1 are necessary. These are provided by this document.

The text in sections 4 to 10 in this document follows the structure of ISO/IEC 17021-1, with specific additions on the application of ISO/IEC 17021-1 for certification of candidate trustworthy digital repositories.

1.5 STRUCTURE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document is divided into informative and normative sections and annexes.

Sections 1-2 of this document give a high-level view of the rationale, the conceptual environment, some of the important design issues and an introduction to the terminology and concepts.

- Section 1 gives purpose and scope, rationale, a view of the overall document structure, and the acronym list, glossary, and reference list for this document. These are normative.
- Section 2 provides an overview of auditing practices. This is informative.
- Section 3 is reserved for future use.
- Section 4 states the principles that apply.
- Sections 5 to 10 provide the normative rules against which an organization providing audit and certification of candidate trustworthy digital repositories may be judged, based on ISO/IEC 17021-1 (reference [4]).
- Annex A specifies the trusted digital repository management system competencies for certification body personnel for specific certification functions.
- Annex B is a CCSDS-required informative discussion of the security implications of applying this CCSDS Recommended Practice.

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1.6 DEFINITIONS

1.6.1 ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CAB	conformity assessment body
CCSDS	Consultative Committee for Space Data Systems
IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
OAIS	Open Archival Information System
TDR	Trustworthy Digital Repository
TDRMS	Trustworthy Digital Repository management system
SANA	Space Assigned Numbers Authority

1.6.2 TERMINOLOGY

1.6.2.1 General

Digital preservation interests a range of different communities, each with a distinct vocabulary and local definitions for key terms. A glossary is included in this document, but it is important to draw attention to the usage of several key terms.

In general, key terms in this document have been adopted from the Open Archival Information System (OAIS) Reference Model (reference [2]). One of the great strengths of the OAIS Reference Model has been to provide a common terminology made up of terms ‘not already overloaded with meaning so as to reduce conveying unintended meanings’. Because the OAIS has become a foundational document for digital preservation, the common terms are well understood and are therefore used within this document.

The OAIS Reference Model uses ‘digital archive’ to mean the organization responsible for digital preservation. In this document, the term ‘repository’ or phrase ‘digital repository’ is used to convey the same concept in all instances except when quoting from the OAIS, and is used to denote any type of digital repository; it may be a Trustworthy Digital Repository (TDR), a candidate TDR, a lapsed TDR, or one not seeking certification. It is important to understand that in all instances in this document, ‘repository’ and ‘digital repository’ are used to convey digital repositories and archives that have, or contribute to, long-term preservation responsibilities and functionality.

1.6.2.2 Glossary

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO/IEC 17021-1 (reference [4]), references [1], [2], and [3], and the following apply.

Trustworthy Digital Repository, TDR: A repository which has a current certification.

1.6.3 NOMENCLATURE

The following conventions apply throughout this Recommended Practice:

- a) the words ‘shall’ and ‘must’ imply a binding and verifiable specification;
- b) the word ‘should’ implies an optional, but desirable, specification;
- c) the word ‘may’ implies an optional specification;
- d) the words ‘is’, ‘are’, and ‘will’ imply statements of fact.

1.7 CONFORMANCE

An organization which provides audit and certification for TDRs conforms to this recommended practice if it fulfils all the binding and verifiable specifications in this document.

1.8 REFERENCES

The following publications contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this document. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All publications are subject to revision, and users of this document are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the publications indicated below. The CCSDS Secretariat maintains a register of currently valid CCSDS publications.

- [1] *Audit and Certification of Trustworthy Digital Repositories*. Issue 2. Recommendation for Space Data System Practices (Magenta Book), CCSDS 652.0-M-2. Washington, D.C.: CCSDS, December 2024 or later. [Equivalent to ISO 16363:2012 or later]
- [2] *Reference Model for an Open Archival Information System (OAIS)*. Issue 3. Recommendation for Space Data System Practices (Magenta Book), CCSDS 650.0-M-3. Washington, D.C.: CCSDS, December 2024 or later. [Equivalent to ISO 14721:2012 or later]
- [3] *Quality Management Systems—Fundamentals and Vocabulary*. 4th ed. International Standard, ISO 9000:2015. Geneva: ISO, 2015.
- [4] *Conformity Assessment—Requirements for Bodies Providing Audit and Certification of Management Systems—Part 1: Requirements*. International Standard, ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015. Geneva: ISO, 2015.
- [5] *Conformity Assessment—Vocabulary and General Principles*. 2nd ed. International Standard, ISO/IEC 17000:2020. Geneva: ISO, 2020.

2 OVERVIEW

This document addresses issues arising from applying good audit practice to auditing and certifying whether and to what extent digital repositories can be trusted to look after digitally encoded information for the long-term, or at least for the period of their custodianship of that digitally encoded information.

It covers principles needed to inspire confidence that third party certification of the management of the digital repository has been performed with

- impartiality,
- competence,
- responsibility,
- openness,
- confidentiality, and
- responsiveness to complaints.

This document specifies the ways of ensuring that the body providing such third party certification can inspire this confidence. It does this by building on the more general specifications of references [3]-[5].

Section 5 deals with the legal aspects and guarantees of impartiality and avoidance of conflicts of interest.

The structure and management of the organization is specified in section 6, which is supported by the competences of the management and personnel, specified in section 7.

Section 8 sets out how the information about which organizations have been certified is made available.

The requirements in the procedures for defining the scope and performance of the audit, the initial certification decision, and the ways in which that certification may be confirmed, reduced in scope, suspended, or withdrawn are given in section 9. This section also specifies how complaints are dealt with.

The management system of the auditing body itself is specified in section 10.

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3 RESERVED

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4 PRINCIPLES

The principles from ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015, Clause 4 apply.

The term ‘management system’ used in ISO/IEC 17021-1 shall be replaced by ‘trusted digital repository management system’ in the context of this document.

The following notes are added:

- The organization shall determine whether climate change is a relevant issue.
- Relevant interested parties can have requirements related to climate change.

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5 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

5.1 LEGAL AND CONTRACTUAL MATTERS

All the requirements from ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015, Clause 5.1 apply.

5.2 MANAGEMENT OF IMPARTIALITY

5.2.1 GENERAL

The requirements from ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015, Clause 5.2 apply. In addition, the following TDR audit and certification specific requirements and guidance apply.

5.2.2 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Members of certification bodies can carry out the following duties without their being considered as consultancy or having a potential conflict of interest:

- a) arranging and participating as a lecturer in training courses, provided that, where these courses relate to digital preservation management, related management systems or auditing, certification bodies should confine themselves to the provision of generic information and advice which is freely available in the public domain; i.e., they should not provide company-specific advice which contravenes the requirements of b) below;
- b) adding value during certification audits and surveillance visits, e.g., by identifying opportunities for improvement, as they become evident during the audit, without recommending specific solutions. However, the certification body shall be independent from the body or bodies (including any individuals) which provide the internal self-assessment of the client organization's repository subject to certification.

5.3 LIABILITY AND FINANCING

The requirements from ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015, Clause 5.3 apply.

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6 STRUCTURAL REQUIREMENTS

All the requirements from ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015, Clause 6 apply.

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7 RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

7.1 COMPETENCE OF PERSONNEL

7.1.1 GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

All the requirements given in 7.1.1 of ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 apply.

7.1.2 DETERMINATION OF COMPETENCE CRITERIA

All the requirements given in 7.1.2 of ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 apply.

The competence criteria included in annex A of this document shall form the basis for the criteria developed. Competence criteria can include generic and specific criteria. The competence criteria in Annex A of ISO/IEC 17021-1 would be considered to be generic.

In determining competence criteria for auditors and audit teams the certification body shall clearly identify those competencies that auditors are required to have to be signed off as auditors, and those competencies that could be provided by other team members acting as Technical Experts in a particular technical area.

NOTE – Qualifications and experience can be used as part of the criteria; however, they are not by themselves guarantees of competencies. The competencies must be evaluated explicitly.

7.1.3 EVALUATION PROCESSES

All the requirements given in 7.1.3 of ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 apply.

7.1.4 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

All the requirements given in 7.1.4 of ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 apply.

7.2 PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN THE CERTIFICATION ACTIVITIES

All the requirements from ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015, Clause 7.2 apply.

7.3 USE OF INDIVIDUAL EXTERNAL AUDITORS AND EXTERNAL TECHNICAL EXPERTS

All the requirements from ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015, Clause 7.3 apply.

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7.4 PERSONNEL RECORDS

All the requirements from ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015, Clause 7.4 apply.

7.5 OUTSOURCING

All the requirements from ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015, Clause 7.5 apply.

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8 INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

8.1 PUBLIC INFORMATION

The requirements from ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015, Clause 8.1 apply.

8.2 CERTIFICATION DOCUMENTS

The requirements from ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015, Clause 8.2 apply.

8.3 REFERENCE TO CERTIFICATION AND USE OF MARKS

The requirements from ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015, Clause 8.3 apply.

8.4 CONFIDENTIALITY

The requirements from ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015, Clause 8.4 apply. In addition, the following TDR audit and certification specific requirements apply.

Before the certification audit, the certification body shall ask the client organization to report if any digital repository information cannot be made available for review by the audit team because they contain confidential or sensitive information. The certification body shall determine whether the digital repository can be adequately audited in the absence of these records. If the certification body concludes that it is not possible to adequately audit the digital repository without reviewing the identified confidential or sensitive records, it shall advise the client organization that the certification audit cannot take place until appropriate access arrangements are granted.

8.5 INFORMATION EXCHANGE BETWEEN A CERTIFICATION BODY AND ITS CLIENTS

The requirements from ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015, Clause 8.5 apply.

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9 PROCESS REQUIREMENTS

The requirements from ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015, Clause 9 apply. In addition, the following TDR audit and certification specific requirements apply.

The criteria against which the candidate Trustworthy Digital Repository of a client are audited shall be those outlined in the reference [1] and other documents required for certification relevant to the function performed.

Any audit team shall include at least two auditors.

Stage 2 of initial, surveillance, and re-certification audits of the client organization shall be on-site unless extraordinary events or circumstances prevent that. In that case, remote assessment may take place as long as there is access to the relevant information and repository staff. In the case of remote assessment, the documented policy on management of extraordinary events or circumstances should be followed.

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10 MANAGEMENT SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION BODIES

The requirements from ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015, Clause 10 apply.

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ANNEX A

**REQUIRED TRUSTED DIGITAL REPOSITORY MANAGEMENT
SYSTEM (TDRMS) COMPETENCIES**

(NORMATIVE)

The following table specifies the trusted digital repository management system competencies for certification body personnel for specific certification functions. These specific competencies are additional to the generic competencies identified in ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 Annex A Table A.1.

The certification body shall identify specific knowledge consistent with the general competencies identified in the table. 'X' does not have the same meaning as ISO/IEC 17021-1. In this table it is used only to identify which of the competencies are relevant; the letter X has no specific meaning.

Competency \ Function	Application Review	Audit Team Selection	Audit Planning Activities	Auditing Activities	Certification Decision	Auditor Evaluation
Possesses the knowledge of and ability to apply the application review requirements in ISO/IEC 17021-1, this document, and specific scheme rules and certification body procedures, including: – audit duration requirements and their application.	X		X	X	X	
Possesses the knowledge of and ability to identify the competencies required for the audit team and required additional technical expertise, in accordance with this table and CAB procedures, including things specific to a repository: – local language; – applicable legal framework, including any specific national or regional factors; – types of digital objects being preserved.		X	X			

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Competency \ Function	Application Review	Audit Team Selection	Audit Planning Activities	Auditing Activities	Certification Decision	Auditor Evaluation
Possesses the knowledge of and ability to develop an audit plan that ensures: – audit team members audit those products and processes that they are technically competent to audit; – the audit team includes members with knowledge required to assess all necessary repository components; – audit time is optimised; and – audit objectives defined in CCSDS 652.0/ISO 16363 can be realized.			X	X		X
Possesses the knowledge of the TDRMS principles as enumerated in CCSDS 652.0/ISO 16363, and the ability to apply these principles including: – establishment of acceptable limits with respect to evidence which should be inspected; – validation methodologies for assessing the evidence presented by the repository.		X	X	X	X	X
Possesses the knowledge of and ability to apply the requirements for reporting in ISO/IEC 17021-1, this document, and any CAB.			X	X	X	X
Possesses the knowledge of and ability to evaluate organizational governance and organizational viability as far as it affects long-term preservation of digitally encoded information, including: – evaluate an organization's commitment to preservation; – recognize whether enough detail is specified in a collection's policy; – evaluate long term business plans; – evaluate sustainability plans (i.e., what will happen to the content if the repository closes?).				X	X	X