

R20.78: Principles of Impartiality

PRI has adopted the principles of impartiality embodied within the ISO 17021 standard for certification bodies offering management system certification.

1. PRI retains authority and responsibility for its decisions. Decisions are based on objective evidence.
2. PRI's policies and procedures are nondiscriminatory and are administered in a non-discriminatory way. It makes its services accessible in a non-discriminatory manner to all applicants.
3. PRI does not provide certification to organizations to which a related body has provided management system consultancy within two years. PRI does not perform management system consulting including hazard analysis consulting and FSMS Consulting.
4. PRI does not outsource audits to a management system consultancy organization.
5. All PRI personnel, either internal or external, or committees, which could influence the certification activities, act impartially and are free from any undue commercial, financial or other pressures that could compromise impartiality.
6. Personnel, who have provided consultancy (including internal audits) within two years to the organization seeking certification, are not employed to take part in any part of the certification process.
7. Contracted personnel must reveal any situation that may present a conflict of interest.
8. PRI shall use any information to identify threats to impartiality and do not use any personnel unless no conflict of interest can be demonstrated.
9. PRI considers it a threat to impartiality if an auditor's employer is known to have provided management system consultancy for the system under assessment within the last two years.
10. PRI shall ensure that person(s) or committee(s) that make decisions on certification are different from those who carried out the assessment.
11. PRI and its personnel do not offer or provide a service that may present PRI with a conflict of interest.
12. PRI does not assess or certify activities that it has itself performed. (E.g. participating in the operations of the management system or performing internal audit of the customer).
13. PRI ensures that activities of related bodies do not affect the confidentiality, objectivity and impartiality of its, certification. PRI avoids any situation that would create a conflict of interest for it arising from the activity of any related body, in particular such that the related body has a vested interest in the outcome of an assessment for certification, or a potential influence on the outcome of an assessment for certification.
14. PRI identifies analyses and document the possibilities for conflict of interest arising from provision of certification including any conflicts arising from the relationship with related bodies. It demonstrates how it eliminates conflict of interest and minimizes any risk to impartiality. The demonstration covers all potential sources of conflict of interests, whether they arise from within the certification body or from the activities of the related bodies.
15. If a conflict of interest exists, PRI does not provide certification to related bodies.
16. Nothing is said or implied that would suggest that certification would be simpler, easier faster or less expensive if any specified personnel or organization providing consultancy were used. PRI's activities are not presented as linked with the activities of an organization providing consultancy.
17. PRI has a documented policy regarding ethical behavior.
18. Records of consultancy are maintained.