



Identity Assurance Framework: IAF-1610

Required Assessor Knowledge and Skills

Version	1.0
Publication Date	2019-07-22
Effective Date	2019-11-22
Status	ARB Policy
Approval Authority	ARB
Approval	2019-05-27
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Contributors	ARB Members, voting and non-voting, current as of the date of publication.

Abstract

This document describes the ARB’s requirements for knowledge and skills which must be met by applicants for Kantara-Accredited Assessor status. These requirements are to be applied in accordance with KIAF-1350 ‘Assessor Accreditation Handbook’ for the purposes of assessing and determining Credential Service Providers’ services for conformity against specific selections of available Kantara Service Assessment Criteria.

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67 **1 INTRODUCTION**

68 Kantara Initiative operates an [Identity Assurance Framework approval scheme \(IAF\)](#) in order
69 to have conformity to the Kantara Initiative’s sets of Service Assessment Criteria assessed and
70 determined by qualified and independent assessors.

71 This document sets out the requirements which applicants must fulfill in order to become
72 Kantara-Accredited Assessors. These requirements will be used by the Assessment Review
73 Board (ARB) to validate applicants’ suitability, according to the processes described in [IAF-
74 1350 “Assessor Accreditation Handbook”](#).

75 **1.1 Changes in this revision**

76 This is the first publication of this document under its given identity and title. However, it is
77 effectively a re-write of IAF-1600 “*Assessor Qualifications and Requirements*” v4.0, and its
78 genesis is worthy of being recorded here,

79 In late 2017 the ARB took a decision to review its actual operations against those initially
80 described in its specification IAF-1300 “*Assurance Assessment Scheme*”. That document has
81 since been deprecated and replaced by [IAF-1340 “Service Approval Handbook”](#) and [IAF-1350
82 “Assessor Accreditation Handbook”](#).

83 As a part of the preparation of [IAF-1350](#), Kantara’s requirements for determining the
84 acceptability of an applicant for recognition as being qualified to perform assessments of
85 applicants for Kantara Approval the contents of the then extant IAF-1600 were reviewed,
86 revised and re-structured. The present document is the first publication of the outcome of that
87 work.

88 2 GLOSSARY

89 The following terms are used specifically in this document, in addition to other terms from the
90 [IAF Glossary](#):

91 **Audit Organization** - an organization which undertakes audits or assessments of
92 entities and their services to establish their conformity to or compliance with specific
93 standards or other widely-recognized criteria, and which wishes to make an
94 Accreditation application to Kantara.

95 **(Accreditation) Applicant** - an **Audit Organization** applying to Kantara Initiative for
96 accreditation under the ACS;

97 **(Kantara-Accredited) Assessor** – an **Applicant** which has satisfied the requirements
98 of the IAF and to which Accreditation has been granted;

99 **(Audit) Subject** - the organization submitting its nominated services to a **Kantara-**
100 **Accredited Assessor** for assessment and Approval. *(Note – this usage of ‘Subject’ is*
101 *exclusive strictly to this document – readers should note that it has a different and very*
102 *specific meaning in other contexts, including within Kantara Initiative, e.g. in the PKI*
103 *and Identity Management domains, and is consequently defined otherwise in the IAF*
104 *Glossary, for wider use).*

105 **3 Required Assessor Knowledge and Skills (RAKS)**

106 **3.1 General Introduction**

107 Baseline Assessor Knowledge and Skills are those competencies which the IAF
108 requires of its assessors, irrespective of whether they have prior recognition and
109 qualification under any other scheme, framework, or process acknowledged by the
110 ARB, or are seeking initial demonstration against the baseline characteristics.

111 **3.2 Baseline Assessor Knowledge and Skills**

112 The baseline competencies selected are derived from the following sources:

113	[FPKI FSC PAG]	Federal PKI Policy Authority, SAFE-BioPharma Policy
114		Authority and CertiPath Policy Management Authority
115		“ <i>PKI Audit Guidelines</i> ”
116	[IAF]	Kantara Initiative Identity Assurance Framework
117	[IRCA802]	IRCA/802/08/1
118		“ <i>Criteria for Certification as an Information Security Auditor</i> ”
119	[IS 17021]	ISO/IEC 17021
120		“ <i>Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies providing</i>
121		<i>audit and certification of management systems</i> ”
122	[IS 17065]	ISO/IEC 17065
123		“ <i>Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies certifying</i>
124		<i>products, processes and services</i> ”
125	[IS 27006]	ISO/IEC 27006
126		“ <i>Information technology - Security - Requirements for bodies</i>
127		<i>providing audit and certification of information security</i>
128		<i>management systems</i> ”
129		(NB – IS 27006 mirrors IS 17021 but, where deemed necessary,
130		provides supplemental requirements explicitly for <i>information</i>
131		<i>security management systems</i>)
132	[ISACA_SGP]	“ <i>ISACA IS Standards, Guidelines and Procedures for Auditing</i>
133		<i>and Control Professionals</i> ”
134	[ISACA_CISA]	“ <i>ISACA Candidate’s Guide to the CISA Exam and Certification</i> ”,
135		2007
136	[PCIQSA]	Payment Card Industry Security Standards Council
137		“ <i>Validation Requirements for Qualified Security Assessors</i> ”
138		Version 1.1

139 The requirements in this document have drawn on these sources, where possible at
140 latest publication and version statuses, to identify useful attributes and competencies
141 which Kantara Initiative requires of its accredited assessors, whether by virtue of their
142 prior qualifications or by the provision of explicit evidence relating to specific
143 requirements.

144 In order to be accredited by Kantara Initiative, applicants must demonstrate that they
145 possess all of these characteristics by fulfilling the following requirements. The
146 following headings preface requirements which address:

- 147 1. The Audit Organization itself;
- 148 2. Individual Auditors;
- 149 3. The collective Audit Team;
- 150 4. Audit Domain-specific requirements.

151 Use of the above sources requires some qualification:

- 152 1. IS 17021 is general in its requirements for bodies auditing and certifying
153 management systems in general. For application to the specific interests
154 of these requirements it must be supplemented by specific IT / information
155 security management systems capabilities – these are, at the ISO level,
156 provided in IS 27006 as requirements supplemental to those of IS 17021;
- 157 2. ISACA_SGP has been assessed only against the Standards, not the
158 Guidelines and Procedures, which underpin adherence to the Standards.
159 This is justified on the basis that the Standards are the prevailing authority,
160 in addition to which ISACA_CISA ensures that knowledge in reasonable
161 depth is determined.

162 It should be noted that the IAF neither strives nor claims to embody a rigorous
163 inclusion of all parts of the above references nor to be a proven mapping or
164 comparison between their respective requirements.

165 The following baseline requirements are to be considered as an holistic set, rather than
166 being individual and separate. Each requirement should therefore be considered to
167 apply in principal to all other requirement topics, e.g., where requirement AO.8
168 expresses expectations for competencies, such competencies must be shown to
169 address the implied needs of any other requirement area.

170 Note that the tags used for these requirements are deliberately distinct from the format
171 used to define SACs, to avoid any possibility of confusion between them.

172

173 3.3 Knowledge and Skill Requirements

174 3.3.1 Audit Organization (AO) Requirements

175 Applicant organizations must:

176 AO.1 Established operational status

177 1) Have a recognized status as a legal organization operating in compliance with all applicable
178 requirements of the jurisdiction in which the organization is principally established and also
179 in those jurisdictions in which it has a base(s) of operations.

180 **Guidance:** For reasons of confidence in the existence and durability of the Applicant, the organization has to be
181 formally registered in some way as to there being no doubt that it is entitled to purvey its services and that it has
182 an operational background which gives confidence that it has established practices and relevant experience, and
183 all reasonable expectation that it will continue to operate for the medium-term future (at least three years). For
184 this reason Kantara will not accredit a sole individual.

185 Also of significance is that where the Applicant offers services in more than one jurisdiction (Country, State,
186 Province, etc.) and has an established office in that jurisdiction (rather than providing a trans-border service)
187 which it requires the Accreditation to cover, the same requirements apply to such additional jurisdiction.

188 Representative evidence would typically be verifiable copies of, or links to, licenses and/or business registrations,
189 etc.

190 2) be in good standing with a level of liability protection set according to a risk-based
191 determination, accounting for the scale of the organization and the jurisdictions in which
192 operations are conducted.

193 **Guidance:** To provide protection for the Subject organizations which it will assess, liability protection is
194 necessary. Potential liabilities may be covered by business insurance or other instruments, e.g. reserves.
195 Representative evidence would be such policies or proof of secured (i.e. fire-walled from application for any
196 other purposes) reserves.

197 3) have effective documented management and approval structures.

198 **Guidance:** Possession and demonstrated application of a documented management structure with clear ownership
199 and approval responsibilities is the most effective way to assess whether the organization is set up to manage and
200 perform assessments in the way required (e.g. with integrity and independence) by other criteria in this set.
201 Representative evidence would therefore be the defined processes and records of their implementation.

202

203 AO.2 Independence & impartiality

204 1) Produce a documented commitment to maintaining its impartiality and independence from
205 any of the potential providers of services within the Kantara Initiative community, and with
206 other CSPs in other Federations with which Kantara Initiative may have established
207 agreements of any kind.

208 **Guidance:** The primary requirement is to show the senior management's commitment to allowing no ownership,
209 shareholding, or conflicting contractual or like bindings between the Applicant and those whom it may assess, or
210 with those parties which may have an interest in the outcome of any assessment, e.g. competitors of the Subject.
211 A formal declaration is at the least a basis for addressing any lack of independence should it arise, although the

212 ARB may seek further assurances where any potential conflicts of interest are known to them, in fact or as
213 possibilities. Note that this requirement focuses on specific parties with which the Kantara Initiative community
214 has relationships and because of this specific focus would generally be provided as a specific statement in support
215 of the application. Representative evidence would be a published statement.

216

217 2) acts at all times so as to preserve its impartiality.

218 **Guidance:** Whilst a declaration of impartiality is an important public statement, the practices to effect that
219 impartiality must exist and be implemented. This requirement is that such practices be in place and continuously
220 exercised. Potential threats to impartiality relate to organizational conflicts as well as those arising from other
221 services which may have been offered to the Subject or personal interests or participation of individuals.
222 Representative evidence would be records of instances where the Applicant has had to exhibit its impartiality
223 (potentially in addressing a complaint or appeal, e.g.).

224 3) produce documented practices to perform impartiality risk reviews and retain record of
225 threats to impartiality in any assignment, at all stages of its conduct.

226 **Guidance:** Ensure that the Applicant undertakes an assessment of the risks, with regard to its impartiality
227 undertakings, involved with each assessment it is engaged to perform, and that there is a review of that risk over
228 the duration of the assignment. As a minimum, an initial assessment and one immediately prior to issuing a
229 report would be expected, although others may be included where the assignment is extended or there are other
230 obvious reasons to do so, such as a change of ownership or significant re-organization (of either party).
231 ‘Practices’ include documented record of the application of such practice, and the ARB may require evidence to
232 be provided, as it may for any criterion. This requirement essentially underpins sub-requirement (3) of this
233 clause. Representative evidence would be the required documentation.

234

235 **AO.3 Management responsibility & liability**

236 1) show management commitment to adherence to best governance practices supported by
237 having documented policies and procedures which ensure adherence to professional
238 standards and practices and in particular to the auditing standards and processes under
239 which it operates.

240 **Guidance:** Notwithstanding the clear need for the practitioners actually undertaking the assessments to have
241 requisite skills (addressed in subsequent requirements) it is important that the Applicant organization actually
242 demonstrates that it is set up for and capable of employing best management practices as required.
243 Representative evidence would therefore be identification as to how the Applicant’s practices fulfill this
244 requirement and identify the audit and technical standards and/or other references on which its operations are
245 based.

246

247 **AO.4 Openness / Defined assessment process**

248 1) faithfully document and publish the assessment process(es) it applies, describing the
249 technical procedures, accounting for principles such as impartiality, objectivity and
250 confidentiality, any applicable reference standards, and its contractual arrangements with its
251 clients.

252 **Guidance:** Kantara Initiative seeks a consistency in the application of assessments leading to certification of
253 Kantara-recognized Service Providers and therefore requires that Kantara-Accredited Assessors have in place a
254 documented and well-defined process for engaging with clients and performing their assessments which can be
255 repeated and in an ideal world would yield consistent results for the same Subject service. Representative
256 evidence would be the documentation defining the process and records of its implementation.

257

258 **AO.5 Confidentiality**

259 1) have in place procedures which ensure that proprietary information relating to clients is
260 securely stored and controlled in all aspects of its use.

261 **Guidance:** Many Subjects will be vying for business from Kantara Initiative members and other participants in
262 the wider community, and as a result assessors will potentially be exposed to proprietary information relating to
263 one or more of another service provider’s competitors. As representative evidence, Applicants must show that
264 they have in place procedures which will safeguard their clients’ confidentiality in all respects.

265

266 **AO.6 Responsiveness to complaints**

267 1) Have a means by which clients may lodge appeals or complaints concerning their practices
268 and determinations and have a documented process for objectively addressing those
269 complaints.

270 **Guidance:** The Applicant should have the means to receive, process, and respond fairly to any complaints or
271 appeals arising from the conduct of its assessment services, since an objective assessment process may be a cause
272 for contention where findings are concerned. Having in place the means to address and resolve any such issues
273 contributes to the overall assurance from the accreditation process. Representative evidence would be the
274 documented process and samples of its implementation where there are any.

275

276 **AO.7 Resources**

277 1) Have qualified and competent assessment personnel to manage the organization and to
278 perform the assessments.

279 Provide for each such qualified person, their name all, their contractual relationship to the
280 organization and their qualifications for holding their position.

281 **Guidance:** Provision of documentary evidence of the organization’s conformity to preceding criteria is not, of
282 itself, sufficient – these requirements also require that the Applicant shows that it has personnel with the requisite
283 competencies and qualifications necessary to effectively apply the organization’s policies, procedures, etc. A
284 register of roles, related job descriptions, and current employee names for the positions having specific relevance
285 would fulfill this requirement.

286 2) have documented processes to ensure that assessment and support personnel have and
287 maintain the competencies necessary to fulfill their duties according to the systems being
288 assessed, their complexity and their geographic location(s).

289 **Guidance:** Provision of documentary evidence of the organization’s conformity to preceding criteria is not, of
290 itself, sufficient – Kantara Initiative also requires that the Applicant shows that it has personnel with the requisite
291 competencies and qualifications necessary to effectively apply the organization’s policies, procedures, etc. A
292 register of roles, related job descriptions, and current employee names for the positions having specific relevance
293 would fulfill this requirement.

294

295 **AO.8 Technical competence**

296 1) for each assessor identified in AO.7 (1), have an operating record of a minimum
297 accumulation of three person months of provision of assessment services over an elapsed
298 period of 12 months OR, if unable to fulfill that requirement, having staff who can
299 demonstrate these minima in their professional experience immediately prior to
300 establishing/joining the Applicant organization.

301 **Guidance:** Apart from having appropriate competencies, actual experience in their application is required to be
302 shown. This is intended to ensure that the Applicant, organizationally, is active in the assessment arena.
303 Provision is made to ‘grandfather’ experience from specific staff members when they are able to demonstrate
304 their currency and are assuming an active role within an organization which might otherwise not meet these
305 requirements. Representative evidence would be illustration of past assignments, in terms of scope, date, and
306 resources applied, including which specific personnel participated.

307 **3.3.2 Assessor Qualification (AQ) Requirements**

308 Although the IAF does not accredit individuals, the organization must commit to ensuring that
309 the assessors it uses fulfill the following requirements and that it has in place the means to
310 ensure that these requirements are fulfilled.

311 Applicant organizations must ensure that their individual Assessors:

312 **AQ.1 Personal attributes**

313 1) exhibit ethical standards by performing assessments in an honest, fair, objective, and
314 discreet manner and with due diligence and professional care.

315 **Guidance:** Ethical standing is required of all personnel involved in the oversight, management, performance,
316 review, and granting of certification relating to any assessment process. Ethics require the assessor to be fair,
317 truthful, and honest in their dealings with the assessment client, in their assessment of only factual matters, and in
318 their overall performance of the assessment. This requires strict adherence to professional and technical standards
319 as well as having a balanced personal nature. Whilst some infractions of the law might be identified they may
320 equally be considered to be inconsequential in the context of the performance of the required assessments. On the
321 other hand, convictions such as fraud, embezzlement, other acts of moral turpitude, bankruptcy, would be serious
322 concerns, in the event of which judgment would have to be made as to the risk that may be presented to the good
323 standing of the IAF as a whole should the Applicant be granted Accreditation. On-going investigations or
324 existing allegations may also require careful consideration by the ARB. Factors in such determinations might be
325 the role of any affected individuals within the Applicant organization. The greater the authority and influence of
326 anyone having any unfavorable record should be balanced against the severity and nature of their (possibly
327 alleged) offense when deciding whether to recognize them or not. Required evidence could be an employee-
328 screening process operated by the organization, records of application of that process including background
329 checks, questionnaires, etc.

330 Note that this requirement does not assess experience and knowledge in the specific assessment field – see AQ.3.

331

332 **AQ.2 Technical competence**

333 1) Have and maintain the requisite knowledge, training, and experience of applicable generic
334 audit/assessment standards and those specifically addressing information security

335 governance and management, risk assessment, information technology, and related
336 security controls.

337 **Guidance:** In addition to overall technical competence across the organization, individual technical competence
338 must be shown for individual assessors. Required evidence would be identification of the specific training
339 undertaken, of standards and other references about which the individuals have knowledge, and of particular
340 techniques applied.

341 2) have the requisite knowledge and experience of applicable laws, regulations and other
342 such requirements.

343 **Guidance:** A comprehensive assessment must investigate the regulatory aspects of the subject and hence, in
344 addition to technical skills, assessors must have knowledge of applicable legislation, etc. Required evidence
345 would be identification of such laws, etc., and where the assessor purveys their work in more than one
346 jurisdiction, indication of the differing requirements across jurisdictions.

347

348 **AQ.3 Subject Matter-specific competence**

349 1) Where the IAF includes criteria aligned to a specific sector or domain, be sufficiently
350 knowledgeable about, trained, and current in the specific management, operational, and
351 technical aspects of the specific domain & technology in which the assessment is performed
352 (see note below), including accepted practices, and applicable standards and specifications.

353 **Note:** For the purposes of being deemed qualified to perform assessments of CSPs claiming conformity to the
354 Kantara Initiative IAF Service Assessment Criteria, the requirements for «*specific domain & technology*» shall
355 be fulfilled by conformity to the requirements set forth herein under group ‘AD’.

356 Where other organizations and federations wish to use Kantara-accredited assessor organizations for
357 assessments performed in their own «*specific domain & technology*» (e.g. PCI DSS, Federal PKI, ...) they
358 should state their own criteria to be used in lieu of (or in addition to, according to their chosen scoping) those
359 in group ‘AD’ herein when fulfilling this requirement and take their own measures to determine the
360 Applicant’s conformity to those specific needs.

361 **Guidance:** Subject-specific knowledge and experience is required to enable the effective application of the
362 generic assessment competencies to the specific subject area. Since the Kantara Initiative Assurance Assessment
363 Scheme is, but for this particular requirement, generic and agnostic in its choice of baseline characteristics such
364 that it can be adopted for other uses or assessors accredited against it can be used in other domains where the only
365 additional requirement is the domain-specific knowledge, this present requirement can be either substituted for by
366 an alternative domain’s set of specific requirements or extended with other such requirements where the two
367 specific areas are both necessary.

368

369 **AQ.4 Education / Professional qualification/certification**

370 1) Have received at least a secondary education (and would preferably hold a bachelor’s
371 degree in any subject) plus any one (at least) of the following professional technical
372 IT/information security management qualifications, which must be current: CGEIT, CISA,
373 CISSP, CISM, CITP, IRCA for ISMS/ITSM, PCI QSA, or equivalent qualification or
374 experience.

375 **Guidance:** Current professional qualifications are the more important part of this requirement, underpinning the
376 basic training qualifications – although a secondary education is the minimum acceptable, a bachelor’s degree is
377 the preferred baseline educational experience and those without it may have to show stronger work experience to
378 be acceptable. Holding one of these professional qualifications gives confidence in the underlying knowledge of
379 the assessor, which may be broader than some specific experience has allowed. Required evidence would
380 typically be certified copies of award of qualification or a URL to a professional body’s registry, which can be
381 authenticated.

382

383 **AQ.5 Impartiality & Professional Competence**

384 1) Have no connection to the client, the material subject to the assessment, or any relevant
385 parties other than in their professional assessor capacity, nor be of a disposition vulnerable
386 to coercion.

387 **Guidance:** Although preceding requirements require independence and impartiality on the part of the
388 organization, its audit staff must also exhibit these qualities and be qualified to perform the audit. Past
389 professional experience and assignments will be one way to make an assessment of their impartiality, e.g.
390 ensuring that the auditee organization was not a previous employer of the assessor, or the assessor a previous
391 employer of any of the auditee’s staff, or that the assessor had not previously given consultancy to the auditee
392 organization, preferably in any form whatsoever, or otherwise demonstrably in a manner which could not have
393 any relationship to the material which the audit will address. Inter-personal relationships might also color
394 judgment but will be harder to identify without the cooperation of the assessor. Even harder to assess, unless
395 there is a pattern of auditee’s complaints about the fairness of an assessor, is the intellectual objectivity,
396 truthfulness, and impartiality which are the scope of professional competence in this context.

397 Forms of evidence could be the individual assessor’s assertions or the applicant organization’s processes and
398 records for reviewing previous employment or customer complaints.

399

400 **AQ.6 Experience**

401 No stipulation – see AO.8.

402 **Guidance:** This requirement accommodates ‘desk assessment, i.e. review of documents from the assessor’s own
403 offices, but also requires on-site assessment experience, since this is the most demanding, challenging, and also
404 effective experience. Verifiable personal or organizational records of assignments undertaken would generally
405 satisfy this need.

406 **3.3.3 Assessment Team (AT) Requirements**

407 Assessment Teams must:

408 **AT.1 Collective skills**

409 1) Consist of assessment professionals who collectively have the necessary skills and
410 experience to assess the policies, procedures, and practices of the subject in all general and
411 specific respects; a single assessor is acceptable but must meet the requirements for Lead
412 Assessor (below).

413 **Guidance:** Although an assessment team may actually be a single person, the nature of the assessment subject
414 may require a range of differing expertise which can only be effectively fulfilled by a team of complementary
415 individuals. A process for determining the skill requirements for any particular assessment and selecting suitably

416 skilled assessment staff, supported where required by evidence of past assignments and the selected team’s skills
417 would typically be the form of required evidence.

418

419 **AT.2 Leader Assessor’s skills**

420 1) be led by an individual who has participated as a Team Leader (including supervised in
421 that capacity) for a minimum of 15 days of assessment services, of which 10 days must have
422 been on-site, over an elapsed period of 24 months.

423 **Guidance:** This simply requires that the Lead Assessor has either received training in this role or has performed
424 it as a qualified Leader within a reasonable period of time and at a reasonable level of effort. Staff records should
425 be the most practical form of evidence to support conformity to this requirement.

426 2) be led by an individual who has knowledge of all areas which are addressed by the
427 assessment, although other team members may have specialist roles.

428 **Guidance:** The selected Lead Assessor’s curriculum vitae, or similar evidence of past experience and training,
429 should demonstrate that they have the requisite skills, at least at a level where, supported by specialist advice,
430 they can make informed and balanced decisions.

431 3) be capable of planning an assessment with such a scope.

432 **Guidance:** The Applicant is expected to demonstrate by past performance, available resource, and tactical
433 capability that they are able to plan and execute an assessment of the form required to satisfy Kantara Initiative
434 expectations. Record of past performance would be an obvious way to evidence conformity to this requirement.

435

436 **AT.3 Use of SMEs**

437 1) Where necessary, only use Subject Matter Experts (SME) which exhibit the same degree of
438 impartiality and competence in their specific field as do the assessors in theirs. SMEs may
439 advise the Lead Assessor but may not dictate findings, recommendations, or remedial
440 actions.

441 **Guidance:** SMEs may be either internal or external, although in the latter case the ARB would expect to see that
442 the organization had in place the means to ensure that the SME, organizationally and individually, would not
443 impinge upon the applicant organization’s ability (once accredited) to fulfill its obligations under its
444 Accreditation. Evidence of a process for validating and selecting SMEs, possibly supported by records of the
445 application of that process, would be appropriate evidence.

446

447 **3.3.4 Assessment Domain (AD) Requirements**

448 Assessors assessing Subjects which are Credential Service Providers must describe their
449 relevant sector knowledge and experience sufficient to convince the ARB that it should
450 recommend the Applicant for Accreditation:

451 **AD.1 Capability in the information security assessment domain**

452 1) Describe the organization’s involvement in the following fields and areas of expertise, citing the
453 year of commencing practice in the field, any notable achievements, some metrics to show active
454 participation, and any other factors which you believe will demonstrate your track record in the
455 information security assessment domain and hence eligibility for Accreditation as a Kantara
456 Assessor:

- 457 i) Information/Cyber Security;
- 458 ii) Information/Cyber Security Management;
- 459 iii) Identity/Credential Management;
- 460 iv) Privacy Management;
- 461 v) Relevant technologies;
- 462 vi) Standardization participation;
- 463 vii) Audit/assessment practices;
- 464 viii) Any other fields where you believe you have directly relevant experience (explain).

465 As applicable, describe your knowledge, skills, and experiences in regard to the above list of
466 information security domain facets, to include the applicable Kantara Classes of Approval
467 for which you believe these skills and experiences establish your competence.

468 **Guidance:** This criterion is intended to give the ARB’s reviewers a broad understanding of the Applicant’s
469 experience and skills. No explicit recency requirements are stated in this criterion, since these are sought where
470 appropriate in the following criteria.

471

472 **3.4 Recognition of prior qualification**

473 These requirements are based upon the principle that it shall impose the minimum additional
474 effort upon Applicants, and Kantara Initiative itself, commensurate with sufficient confidence
475 being established in the Applicants’ conformity to all of the requirements known collectively as
476 the ‘baseline characteristics’. Through the ‘grandfathering’ principle maximum recognition is
477 given to Applicants who can demonstrate their qualification against certain recognized industry
478 references, these being those cited in §3.2.

479 By their very nature, these references provide ‘credit’ against different groups of these
480 requirements, and Applicants may use collective credits from multiple prior qualifications.

481 The ARB will, where the published credit allowed is ‘qualified’ or ‘none’, allow credit where
482 the Applicant can demonstrate that specific requirements were in fact addressed by the
483 particular prior qualification they are presenting. This recognizes that the determination made
484 in this document is based upon a generic interpretation of the applicable reference, rather than
485 a specific instance of it.

486 The continued validity of the credit granted to Applicants with certified (or otherwise proven)
487 conformity to the requirements of each reference shall be reviewed and revised accordingly
488 whenever the relevant reference source is revised.

489 **3.4.1 Validity**

490 Where an Applicant’s Accreditation is based on prior qualification the Accreditation will lapse
491 six months after the first-occurring expiration date of any claimed prior qualifications, at any
492 given point during the first two-and-a-half years of the three year Accreditation validity.

493 After the first three years of Accreditation continued qualification will shift towards being
494 based on practical experience through the performance of Kantara Assessments and any other
495 directly-related experience.

496 **3.4.2 Waivers**

497 Applicants with reasonable grounds for doing so may request that a waiver be granted where
498 these requirements are not strictly met but the Applicant requests a ‘conformity exception’
499 (CE) and offers sufficient evidence to convince the ARB that their specific qualifications or
500 evidence are equally acceptable. For example, special experience may have been acquired and
501 used to gain a professional qualification in lieu of conventional requirements, in which case,
502 assuming that the qualification was one recognized by the ARB, the same argument would
503 most likely be accepted as fulfillment of these requirements for relevant experience.

504 Kantara Initiative reserves the right, at the sole determination of the ARB, to decline requests
505 for waivers, grant waivers on a one-off basis and for whatever time period it deems fit, or to
506 undertake revision of these requirements to include the circumstances of the request as a
507 permanent part of this handbook.

508 **3.4.3 Alternative claims for prior qualification**

509 Should an Applicant believe themselves to be in possession of an existing qualification which
510 is not one of those listed in this document they may cite it in response to the Knowledge and
511 Skill requirements herein if they cite source documents and applicable clause with which the
512 Applicant complies and which they believe fulfill the needs of Kantara’s applicable criteria.

513 **3.5 Revisions to baseline Required Knowledge and Skills**

514 Kantara Initiative reserves the right, subject to due notice and consultation, to revise these
515 criteria as it sees fit, including the addition of requirements in response to any CE requests
516 which suggest that such evidence is justifiable and likely to be sufficiently commonplace or
517 valuable to the overall accreditation process to deserve recognition through revision to
518 requirement.

519 **4 Revision History**

520

Vn.	Date	Status	Notes	Approved
1.0	2019-05-27	Final	First Publication	ARB

521

522