



INSTITUTE FOR ACCREDITATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA



Accreditation and ISO 37001

**Anti-Bribery
Management Systems**

Accreditation and ISO 37001 Anti-Bribery Management Systems

Bribery is “an attempt to make someone do something for you by giving the person money, presents, or something else that they want” (definition by the Cambridge Dictionary).

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) notes that the price tag of bribery alone exceeds \$1 trillion annually, with the additional costs of corruption adding another \$1.6 trillion. But as the OECD points out, “It is not only a question of ethics; we simply cannot afford such waste”.

ISO 37001 – Anti-bribery management systems was published in 2016 to provide a management system framework to help organisations to implement measures specifically to help prevent, detect, and address any risk of bribery.

This system will have the greatest impact in the Republic of North Macedonia in the state institutions, which, if they are legally obligated or in any other way committed, will have to introduce, and systematically address corruption through the implementation of this system.

The benefits of implementing ISO 37001 in institutions could represent the biggest step forward in the systematic fight against corruption in the country and an excellent promotion of the commitments of the Republic of North Macedonia in this fight.

What is an anti-bribery management system?

ISO designed the framework of ISO 37001 to support organisations of all types. The standard covers several core aims, including the ability to demonstrate adherence to relevant legislation, manage bribery risks, and build confidence for external scrutiny of the effectiveness of the organisation’s policies. This is achieved through a management system approach to such issues as policy development, training, structural issues, risk assessment, and implementation of relevant controls. The standard covers controls for both bribery activities conducted by the organisation and bribery activities conducted against the organisation.

An anti-bribery management system is designed to introduce an anti-bribery culture within an organisation and implement appropriate controls, which will in turn increase the chance of detecting bribery and reduce its incidence in the first place. ISO 37001, Anti-bribery management systems – Requirements with guidance for use, gives the requirements and guidance for establishing, implementing, maintaining and improving an anti-bribery management system.

Certification Bodies can be accredited for ISO 37001 under ISO/IEC 17021-1 Conformity assessment. The system can be independent of, or integrated into, an overall management system.

It covers bribery in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors, including bribery by and against an organisation or its staff, and bribes paid or received through or by a third party. The bribery can take place anywhere, be of any value and can involve financial or non-financial advantages or benefits.



Who is ISO 37001 for?

The requirements of ISO 37001 are generic and are intended to be applicable to all organisations (or parts of an organisation), regardless of type, size and nature of activity.

The standard is flexible and can be adapted to a wide range of organizations, including:

- Large organisations
- Small & medium sized enterprises (SMEs)
- Public and private sector organisations
- Non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

The standard can be used by organisations in any country.

What does ISO 37001 address?

Bribery by the organisation, or by its personnel or business associates acting on the organisation's behalf or for its benefit.

Bribery of the organisation, or of its personnel or business associates in relation to the organisation's activities.

How will the Standard benefit an organisation?

The standard benefits an organisation by providing:

Minimum requirements and supporting guidance for implementing or benchmarking an anti-bribery management system.

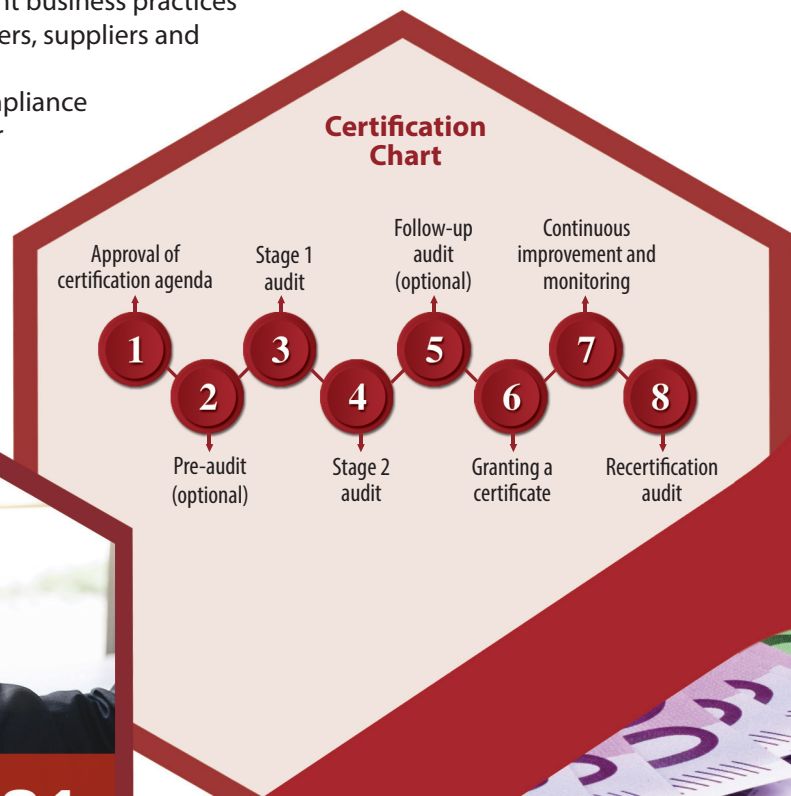
Assurance to management, investors, employees, customers, and other stakeholders that an organisation is taking reasonable steps to prevent bribery.

Evidence in the event of an investigation that an organisation has taken reasonable steps to prevent bribery.

Why should organisations pursue ISO 37001 certification?

An anti-bribery policy and supporting management systems are critical components of an overall compliance policy. Implementing ISO 37001 can help organisations avoid the adverse impacts of bribery. Meeting legal obligations and committing to sustainable and transparent business practices helps build trust and confidence with customers, suppliers and third parties.

Third parties can certify an organisation's compliance with the standard in the same way they do for other ISO standards such as ISO 9001.



While it cannot guarantee that there will be no bribery in relation to an organisation, certification or compliance with this standard can help to implement robust and proportionate measures that can substantially reduce the risk of bribery and address bribery where it does occur.

Why use an accredited certification body?

Third party management systems certification is a frequently specified requirement to operate in the global marketplace. It can demonstrate compliance to a standard, a code of practice or regulatory requirements. It can also deliver internal business improvement.

Accreditation is the independent evaluation of certification bodies against the standard ISO/IEC 17021-1 Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems — Part 1: Requirements to ensure their impartiality, competence and consistency. The standard sets out the principles and requirements for the competence, consistency and impartiality of bodies providing audit and certification of management systems services.

In many countries, accreditation is not mandatory. It should be noted that the fact that a certification body is not accredited does not, by itself, mean that it is not a reputable organisation. However, many certification bodies choose to seek accreditation in order to be able to demonstrate an independent confirmation of their competence and independence.

How does the Institute for Accreditation of the Republic of North Macedonia support ISO 37001 certification?

The Institute for Accreditation of the Republic of North Macedonia (IARNM) is the only national accreditation body and works to introduce and promote the accreditation system and bring it closer to the economy and citizens as end users.

The Institute also works actively in the field of international integration. This has resulted in the signing of the three most significant international agreements for mutual recognition of the results of accredited activities, the agreement with the European Accreditation Organization (EA), the agreement with the International Organization for Accreditation of Laboratories (ILAC) and the agreement with the International Accreditation Forum (IAF).

The main goal of the Institute is to ensure the equality of domestic accredited bodies with others around the world, and to open the doors for domestic products and services for smooth and reliable placement on the European and world markets. As a result of the accreditation process, consumers and companies gain confidence in the reliability, quality and safety of use of the products and services they use in their daily life and work.

The Institute for Accreditation the Republic of North Macedonia is in a process of development and introduction of ISO 37001 accreditation scheme. The core purpose of accreditation is to have an independent, impartial and transparent body that will assess the competence and conformity of organisms. Therefore, accreditation and anti-bribery management systems were destined for brilliant cooperation.



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