



Policy on Scheme Owner Independence from CBs and Coverage of Liabilities

1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is twofold:

- to affirm the independence of the Scheme Owner from Certification Bodies (CBs)¹ and their audit activities; and
- to describe how the scheme owner ensures that arrangements are adequate to cover the scheme's liabilities.

2 Scheme Owner Independence from CBs

FISH (Fairness, Integrity, Safety, and Health) Standard for Crew Standard (FISH SC) is owner of the FISH Standard for Crew and associated elements of the certification scheme.

FISH SC publishes information about its governance and structure on its website <https://fishstandard.com/>

FISH SC is not owned by a CB or a group of CBs.

FISH SC is not managed in whole or in part by a CB or a group of CBs.

FISH SC does not engage in the operational affairs of CBs. More specifically, FISH SC plays no role in CB audits or CB certification decisions.

¹ Use of the term "CB" extends to Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) as well as other types of audit firms.

3 Arrangements to Cover Scheme Owner Liabilities

FISH SC shall review its liabilities and maintain arrangements to adequately cover liabilities arising from its operations.

The most significant liabilities associated with the operation of the FISH Standard for Crew certification scheme are directly linked to the actions and decisions of participating Certification Bodies (CBs) and Accreditation Bodies (ABs). To address these liabilities:

- the Certification and Accreditation Framework for the FISH Standard for Crew mandates that all participating CBs and ABs shall conform with requirements of ISO 17065 and 17011 respectively, which includes requirements for these bodies to cover financing and liabilities arising from their own operations;
- the MOU between FISH SC and AB specifies that the AB shall maintain an insurance policy sufficient to covers its liabilities; and
- the Agreement or MOU between FISH SC and CBs specifies that the CB shall maintain an insurance policy sufficient to cover its liabilities.

FISH SC was incorporated in the United States and, as such, has limited the personal liability of its owners, and what they are responsible for under the law.

The FISH Board of Directors regularly reviews the financial status of FISH SC (i.e., its reserves) to ensure that the magnitude of financial risks is understood and, if necessary, addressed.

The FISH Board of Directors regularly reviews scheme operations for any new or previously unforeseen risks.

If the FISH Board should determine that it is necessary, FISH SC will procure an insurance policy of sufficient scope to cover its liabilities.