

## **Very important information for our clients**

### **Change of time deadline for performance of recertification audits**

Dear Sir, Dear Madam,

We would like to inform you that our accreditor, Deutsche Akkreditierungsstelle (DAkkS), published an important decision on 20.02.2013. With this decision, DAkkS changed the rules on deadlines for recertification audits for management system certification (e.g. according to ISO 9001, ISO 14001 etc.) based on DIN EN ISO/IEC 17021.

### **Recertification audits are now only possible before expiry of the validity of the certificate**

In the past it was possible to perform recertification audits within a time period which began three months before, and ended 6 months after, the expiry of the certificate. This rule was changed immediately by the decision of DAkkS. In future, recertification audits must be carried out before expiry of the certificate. If this is not possible, a new (initial) certification process is necessary, with the corresponding time and cost and a new period of validity for the certificate.

Gap-free ongoing certification is therefore only possible if the new deadlines are fulfilled.

### **What is the new procedure?**

The new procedure applies immediately, as from now. However, DAkkS has allowed a transitional period up to 01.09.2013.

Please plan your recertification audits with your auditors so that the new rule can be obeyed. Please also look at the date of validity on your certificate and check it against recertification audit dates that have already been agreed with your auditors to make sure that the new deadline will be fulfilled.

If you see that the deadline will be exceeded, please contact your auditor immediately.

We will of course be pleased to answer any questions you may have. You can contact us at:

[info.tncert@tuev-nord.de](mailto:info.tncert@tuev-nord.de)

With kind regards  
TÜV NORD CERT GmbH  
Certification Body