



119 2nd Ave. West
Dickinson, ND 58601, USA
Tel: +1 701 483 5504 Fax: +1 701 483 5508
E Mail: info@ioas.org
Web: www.ioas.org

IOAS Official Notice 2018_01
May 25, 2018
Change on number of contract deficiencies

Applicability: All schemes

References: IOAS procedure PR 0511 'Policy and procedures for granting of accreditation'.

Applicable immediately

IOAS policy and procedures for granting or recommending accreditation (document PR 0511) recognises two grades of non-compliance; '**non-conformity**' (NCs) being the more serious and '**deficiency**' (Ds) being of lesser gravity.

At initial accreditation all NCs are required to be resolved, but we have allowed up to 25 Ds to be appended to the contract for later resolution, at the time of the first or second annual update, and before the next on-site visit.

We have recognized a growing trend for CBs to want to reduce the number of Ds to zero before accreditation. IOAS has also determined that to have so many issues outstanding at the point of accreditation is not a satisfactory declaration of competence and is complicated for both the CB and the IOAS to manage.

Given this but recognising quality is an on-going process, IOAS has decided to reduce the number of Ds that can be appended to any contract to **10** and that all of these Ds will have a due date of the first annual update after accreditation or re-accreditation. A CB with more than one accreditation contract with IOAS may have up to 10 Ds appended per contract, although we will continue to encourage all CBs to resolve all issues beforehand.

All new accreditation contracts issued to CBs that have not already received the results of the respective (re) accreditation document review as at the date of this notice will be issued in line with this decision.

We hope that this will both enhance confidence in your accreditations and simplify your management of non-compliances.

If you have any questions related to this official notice, please contact your Client Manager.