

Reactive Guidance on RSB-PRO-70-001: Transfer of RSB Certificates from Control Union to an alternative CB

26th September 2022 – Version 1

1. Interpretation requested for the following scenario:

The accreditation status of RSB Certification Body (CB) Control Union expired on 30th August 2022 and as such Participating Operators (POs) who work with Control Union will need to transfer their certifications to another CB in order to maintain their certification status.

The RSB Secretariat wishes to create a frictionless transfer which will put as little burden on stakeholders as possible. For this reason the below will outline the RSB approach to this specific scenario whereby POs are transferred from one CB to another when a CB decides to end their accreditation with the RSB.

2. Applicable Standards

1. RSB-PRO-70-001¹, Section F.7. “Transferring Participating Operators” specifies the criteria and requirements for transferring a participating operator from one certification body to another under regular circumstances.

3. Guidance

3.1 Guidance on transferring an RSB Certificate

- a) All certificates that are currently certified by Control Union (CU) may be transferred to an alternative RSB CB. The transfer of the certificate to an alternative RSB CB shall be approved by the RSB secretariat. This should be conducted in line with RSB-PRO-70-001, Section F.7. “Transferring Participating Operators”.
- b) All minor corrective action requests that are applicable to the preceding certificate shall remain applicable to the succeeding certificate, and shall be evaluated by the succeeding alternative CB according to the defined timelines.
- c) Transferred certificate holders shall be exempt from being included in the alternative RSB CB’s head office audit, until the alternative RSB CB has conducted a successful audit of that certificate holder.
- d) The scope of the succeeding certificate shall be the same as the scope of the preceding certificate. If the certificate holder is requesting a change in their previous scope, the alternative CB shall evaluate this request in line with relevant requirements from RSB-PRO-70-001. If the alternative

¹ https://rsb.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/RSB-PRO-70-001_Requirements-CBs-and-Auditors_v3.7..pdf

CB detects that the scope of the preceding certificate is incorrect in any way then they should reevaluate this in line with relevant requirements from RSB-PRO-70-001.

3.2 Guidance on delaying audit schedules

- a) A forced change of Certification Body (CB) is a condition beyond the control of the certificate holder and the alternative CB, as such is a valid reason to extend certificate validity or audit schedule according to the rules set out in section H3.5 of RSB-PRO-70-001.
- b) Actions carried out based on this guidance do not contribute to H3.5.1 and H3.5.2 of the RSB-PRO-70-001 on *'the required audit schedule once per certification cycle'*.
- c) Where RSB Global Certifications are concerned: If a PO or the selected alternative CB needs a further extension to this three to six month period, a request should be brought to the RSB Secretariat immediately, to be evaluated and decision made at the discretion of the RSB Secretariat.