



الاعتماد السعودي
Saudi Accreditation

SAAC transition plan for ISO17020:2026

SAAC transition plan for ISO17020:2026

Referring to ILAC Resolution GA 29.22: the ILAC General Assembly formally adopted a three (3)-year transition period from the date of publication of ISO/IEC 17020:2026, after which accreditations based on ISO/IEC 17020:2012 will no longer be recognized under the Global ACI.

Following the official publication of ISO/IEC 17020:2026 Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection on 27th March 2026, replacing the previous edition ISO/IEC 17020:2012, SAAC hereby informs all accredited Inspection Bodies that the transition period for the implementation of the new version of the standard ISO/IEC 17020:2026 will end by 27th March 2029.

SAAC will accept new Inspection Body requests for accreditation to ISO/IEC 17020:2026 from 1st September 2026.

SAAC Commitments and Oversight Arrangements

01

Internal Transition Plan

SAAC will establish and maintain an internal transition plan defining activities, responsibilities, timelines, resources, and reporting mechanisms.

02

Training & Awareness

SAAC will train all relevant personnel including accreditation managers, assessors, technical experts, and committee members on the key changes in ISO/IEC 17020:2026.

03

Updating Procedures & Tools

SAAC will review and update all related inspection accreditation Policies, procedures, checklists, reporting templates, competence criteria, and decision-making records before the mandatory stage.

04

Risk-Based Transition Management

SAAC will evaluate risks related to transition assessments based on complexity, regulatory impact, complaints, suspensions, remote inspection use, and readiness of each Inspection Body.

05

Monitoring & Management Review

SAAC will monitor transition progress at planned intervals, tracking IB status, delayed cases, resource needs, training status, and risks against the SAAC deadline.

06

Regional & International Alignment

SAAC will consider ILAC, APAC and ARAC guidance and resolutions to ensure harmonized implementation and continued international recognition of SAAC accreditations.

Regulatory Background

ILAC Resolution GA 29.22

The ILAC General Assembly formally adopted a three (3)-year transition period from the date of publication of ISO/IEC 17020:2026, after which accreditations based on ISO/IEC 17020:2012 will no longer be recognized under the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA).



Publication Date

27 March 2026

ISO/IEC 17020:2026 officially
issued



Accept request

1 September 2026

SAAC accept request as per
ISO/IEC 17020:2026



Transition Period

3 Years

From the date of publication



Global Deadline

27 March 2029

All ISO/IEC 17020:2026
accreditations will not be valid

SAAC Regional Commitment

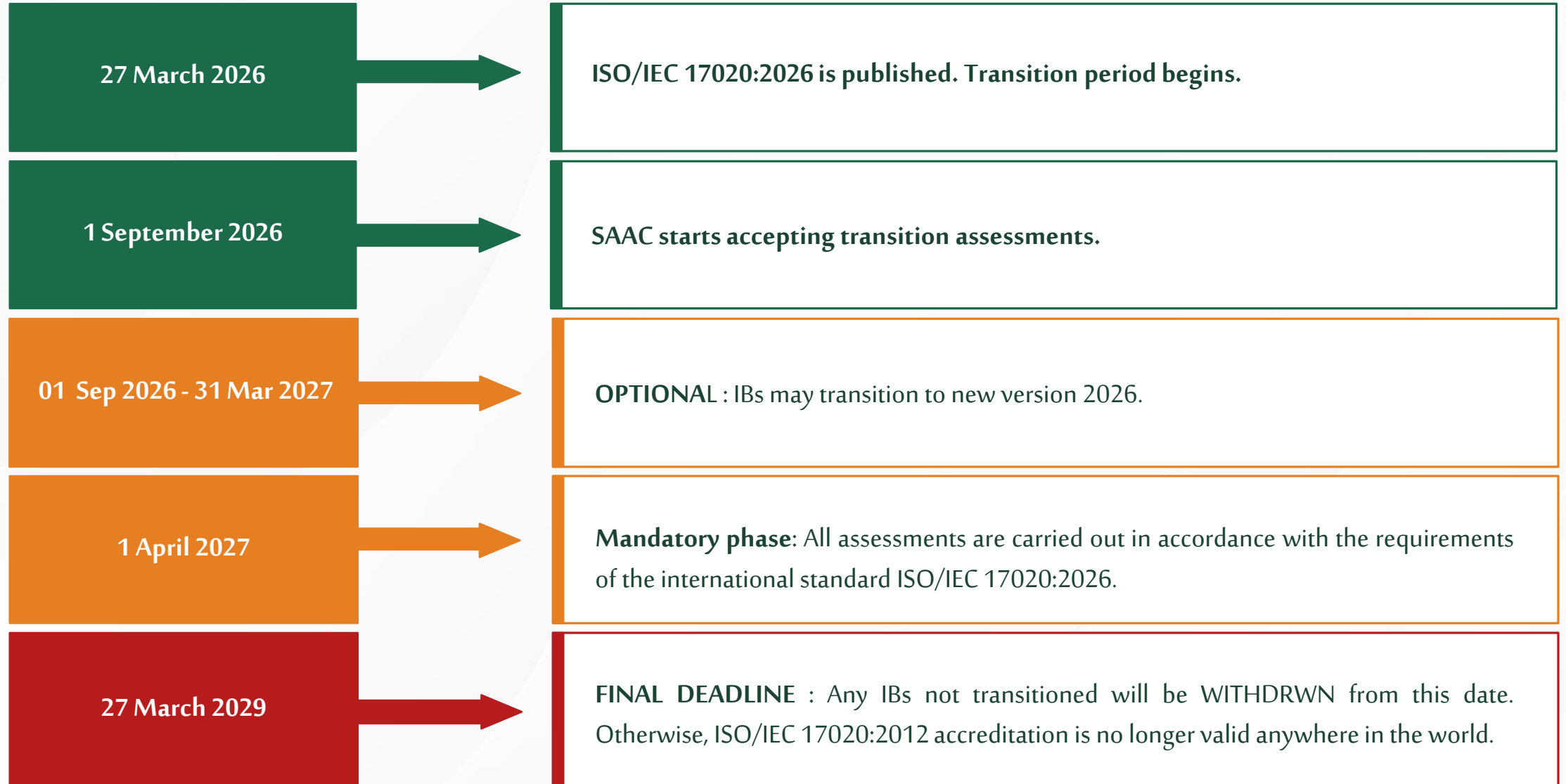
As a member of the Arab Accreditation Cooperation (ARAC) and Asian Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC), Saudi Accreditation Center (SAAC) is required to ensure all accredited Inspection Bodies complete their transition to ISO/IEC 17020:2026 by 27th March 2029. SAAC is a signatory to the Global ACI, meaning that accreditation granted by SAAC is internationally recognized.

SAAC Transition Requirements for Accredited Inspection Bodies.

Assessment according the new version of ISO/IEC 17020:2026 standard will be optional for any accredited Inspection Body whose assessment is scheduled before 31st March 2027. After this date all SAAC assessments will be according the new standard ISO/IEC 17020:2026.

If the Inspection Body has not successfully completed its transition to ISO/IEC 17020:2026 before 27th March 2029, then the existing accreditation to ISO/IEC 17020:2012 will be withdrawn on this date. Inspection Bodies that have not transitioned to the 2026 version by this date will no longer be able to claim accreditation for their inspection activities.

SAAC Transition Plan — Timeline



SAAC Transition Process — Accredited Inspection Bodies

- **SAAC Contacts You**

SAAC will contact all accredited Inspection Body directly when scheduling annual assessment visits. No formal application for transition is required.
- **Transition Assessment**

Transition assessments will be combined with scheduled annual visits. The team will verify both management system and technical changes. Mandatory findings must be resolved within one month.
- **New Certificate Issued**

Upon successful transition, SAAC issues a new certificate referencing ISO/IEC 17020:2026. Your reference number, annual visit dates, and accreditation cycle year remain unchanged.

What Your Inspection Body Needs to Do

01

Obtain the Standard

Purchase ISO/IEC 17020:2026 and distribute it to all relevant personnel immediately.

02

Conduct Gap Analysis

Compare your management system and inspection processes against ISO/IEC 17020:2026 requirements.

03

Plan & Implement Changes

Develop an internal action plan. Update management system.

04

Train Your Personnel

Ensure all relevant staff understand the changes in ISO/IEC 17020:2026 and their impact on roles and responsibilities.

05

Confirm Your Transition Date

Contact SAAC to confirm whether you will transition in the:

- Optional stage (1st Sep 2026 – 31st March 2027).



الاعتماد السعودي
Saudi Accreditation

Thank you