

Memo to IAWG Chair and Vice Chair

From: Kay Chopard, Executive Director *KC*

RE: Immediate Changes to Assurance Program and IAWG Jurisdiction

Date: 31 July 2025

With the imminent release of NIST SP 800-63 version 4, this memo is to inform you of changes being made to the assurance program. The release of version 4, along with Kantara UK's pending ISO 17065 approval, has necessitated adjustments that directly impact IAWG.

Having completed the bulk of the ISO 17065 accreditation process in the UK, I now have more concrete instructions on what is acceptable for the structure and assigned work within the US assurance program. As per the standard and the requirement for a certification oversight board, this function is no longer required for IAWG. The impending release of version 4 requires these changes to be implemented immediately.

1. **New stakeholder oversight group will be formed.** In the ISO 17065 accreditation process, I have been given very specific instructions on what the stakeholder oversight group must comprise and its purview.
 - It must be a component part of the assurance program, owned and governed by the assurance program. It must function much like the ARB, with structured areas of responsibility and roles.
 - It cannot be comprised of volunteers, and it cannot be a work group. It cannot participate in the Leadership Council or comply with LC operating procedures.
 - This stakeholder group will be smaller in size, and participants will be selected to represent a variety of stakeholder groups, including relying parties, industry representatives, government agencies, assessors, consumers, and so forth.
 - It will not have final decision-making authority on assessment criteria. The head of the program, the executive director, will have final decision-making authority.
 - Its purpose will be to oversee the entire assurance program, maintaining the integrity of the program, including the impartiality, consistency, and quality assurance of all aspects of the program.
2. **IAWG will no longer have authority over Kantara's 800-63 criteria.** The IAWG will no longer have the responsibility or authority to revise Kantara's assessment criteria for 800-63.
 - Kantara assurance program staff will be responsible for drafting the revised service assessment criteria, including the imminent release of revision 4, to be used in the assurance program.
 - The responsibility and authority for the assessment criteria will be part of the assurance program and not part of any work groups. This includes providing guidance on conformity assessment for companies and assessors regarding what must be tested, the evidence to be provided, and the acceptable results.

- The program will provide a public review and comment period before any assessment criteria or updates to the criteria are finalized.
 - The program will be responsible for updating and maintaining the service approval handbook and all other handbooks associated with the assurance program.
3. **Certain IAWG roles and responsibilities are not transferring.**
- The stakeholder oversight group will not respond to requests for consultations from government agencies, international organizations, other industries, or the like.
 - The focus of the stakeholder oversight group will be on maintaining the assurance program and keeping it current.
 - Innovation and creative efforts to expand 800-63 applicability will not be part of the purview of the new stakeholder oversight group.
 - Any areas of the IAWG that are not part of the maintenance of the assurance program will not transfer.
4. **Changes will be implemented immediately.** Given our progress on 17065 accreditation and the imminent release of version 4 of 800-63, these changes are effective immediately.