Principles of impartiality and objectivity

To ensure the impartiality and objectivity of certification activities, the certification body applies the following rules:

- certification activities are carried out by a legal entity whose activities are limited to certification;
- the certification body does not outsource its certification activities. The auditors and verifiers of the certification body, whether employees, subcontractors or self-employed persons, therefore have only a defined assignment and are trained, qualified, supervised, observed and evaluated by the certification body.
- the certification body assumes full responsibility for the audit assignment;
- the certification body ensures that no form of pressure (commercial, financial or other) can influence objectivity and impartiality;
- the certification body makes its decisions based on objective supporting evidence;
- the assessment and certification decision are made by persons who have not participated in the audit;
- the calculation of the audit duration and audit price is based on a standard matrix that is used for all audits carried out according to the same reference framework or the same standard. This matrix is drawn up on the basis of the requirements imposed by the applicable reference framework or applicable standard;
- the certification body does not carry out certification of the management system of another certification body;
- the certification body does not provide consultancy activities or conduct internal audits for certified clients;
- the certification body imposes impartiality requirements on its employees, auditors and verifiers. Under certain conditions, the certification body will refuse the assignment;
- the certification body may provide supporting and informative activities in preparation for an audit, provided that these are not carried out specifically for the client;
- the certification body implements an active risk management policy.