

ISO Central Secretariat

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Rob Steele
Secretary-General

Your ref.
Our ref. ISO 26000

Date 2010-11-25

Organisation internationale de normalisation
International Organization for Standardization
Международная Организация по Стандартизации



Mr. Heinrich A. Bieler
SWISS TS TECHNICAL SERVICES AG
Richtistrasse 15
8304 Wallisellen

Dear Mr. Heinrich Bieler,

A certificate to "ISO 26000:2010" delivered by your organization on 29 July 2010 recently came to our attention.

You are certainly aware that, just a few weeks ago, ISO published ISO 26000:2010, a standard giving guidance on social responsibility (i.e. after issuance of your certificate). The ISO Central Secretariat and ISO members are seeking to ensure that ISO standards are implemented in the manner in which the associated ISO committees intended. In this respect, please note that:

- ISO 26000 is not a management system standard and specifically does not contain requirements against which an organization or its management system could be audited and certified. ISO 26000 provides guidance on what social responsibility is and how organizations can operate in a socially responsible manner.
- Furthermore, the scope of ISO 26000 clearly indicates that it is not to be used for certification, specifically stating *"This international standard is not a management system standard. It is not intended or appropriate for certification purposes or regulatory or contractual use. Any offer to certify, or claims to be certified to ISO 26000 would be a misrepresentation of the intent and purpose and a misuse of this International Standard. As this International Standard does not contain requirements, any such certification would not be a demonstration of conformity with this International Standard."*

Given such a clear intent, ISO and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), in consultation with ISO, has recently *"resolved that there will not be any accredited certification to ISO 26000"*. To this aim, ISO and the IAF have issued a joint statement reinforcing the above position by declaring:

- ISO 26000 has the purpose of globally enhancing social responsibility, sustainability and ethical behaviour in all kinds of organizations
- There will be no accredited certification to ISO 26000 as this is contrary to the intent and spirit of the standard
- Any claims of certification to ISO 26000 are misleading and are not a demonstration of conformity to ISO 26000



- IAF and ISO members will report any organizations providing certification to ISO 26000 to the ISO Central Secretariat
- IAF and ISO shall communicate this to their members who will be requested to communicate within their own countries to regulators, stakeholders and industry.

We therefore request that Swiss TS take immediate action to remove any such certificates, and to stop certification activities being undertaken on the basis of ISO 26000. We also hereby inform the IAF of this issue, so they may take appropriate action in the context of our joint statement.

Thank you for your attention to this matter; I look forward to your response

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Steele', written over a horizontal line.

Rob Steele

cc: IAF Secretariat
Swiss Accreditation Service
CWK-SCS Division of Coop Cooperative
ISO/WG SR Chair and Vice Chair