



Candidate's Handbook

ISO 22000 Lead Auditor



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About PECB

PECB is a certification body for persons, management systems, and products on a wide range of international standards. As a global provider of training, examination, audit, and certification services, PECB offers its expertise on multiple fields, including but not limited to Information Security, IT, Business Continuity, Service Management, Quality Management, Risk & Management, Health, Safety, and Environment.

We help professionals and organizations show commitment and competence by providing them with valuable education, evaluation and certification against rigorous internationally recognized standards. Our mission is to provide our clients with comprehensive services that inspire trust, continual improvement, demonstrate recognition, and benefit the society as a whole.

Our principal objectives and activities are:

1. Establish the minimum requirements necessary to certify professionals, organizations and products.
2. Review and verify the qualifications of applicants for eligibility to be considered for the certification evaluation.
3. Develop and maintain reliable, valid, and current certification examinations.
4. Grant certificates to qualified candidates, organizations and products, maintain records, and publish a directory of the holders of valid certificates.
5. Establish requirements for the periodic renewal of certification and determine compliance with those requirements.
6. Ascertain that our clients meet ethical standards in their professional practices.
7. Represent its members, where appropriate, in matters of common interest.
8. Promote the benefits of certification to organizations, employers, public officials, practitioners in related fields, and the public.



Value of PECB Certification

Why Choose PECB as Your Certification Body?

Global Recognition

Selecting the right organization or certification body that offers qualitative and credible training and certification services can be a challenge. However, by choosing an accredited certification body, such as PECB, proves that you are in compliance with best practices, up to speed, and trustworthy.

Professionals who pursue a PECB certification credential will benefit from the recognition in domestic and overseas markets. Being accredited by some of the strictest and most reputable accreditation bodies in the world gives us global recognition.

Competent Personnel

PECB is acknowledged by technically competent people that have relevant sector experience. All of our personnel hold professional credentials and are constantly trained and monitored to ensure more than satisfactory outcomes for our clients.

Compliance to Standard

Certification is proof of compliance to a particular standard. It proves that the standard's requirements and principles have been fulfilled and validated with adequate consistency, professionalism and impartiality. PECB accredited certifications are evidence of strict compliance with Standards and their conditions, therefore reflecting safety, reliability and superior quality.

Reasonable Fees

Being able to afford professional and credible certification services that are recognized globally can be a struggle in today's world. Besides being the lowest charging organization for professional training and certification services, including both the examination and certification process fees, PECB also has the lowest certification maintenance fees in the industry.

Why not benefit from the opportunity of attaining accredited professional certifications that are globally recognized, fully compliant with standards, and easily affordable? PECB Certifications have proven to be effective instruments for confirmation of knowledge, skills and experience in a rapidly changing economy. By holding a PECB Certification, you will demonstrate that you have the necessary capabilities of shielding yourself and your organization against persistent, changing and undefined threats in a moderately challenging environment over a short period of time.



PECB Code of Ethics

PECB professionals will:

1. Conduct themselves professionally, with honesty, accuracy, fairness, responsibility and independence.
2. Act at all times solely in the best interest of their employer, their clients, the public, and the profession, by acting in accordance with the professional standards and applicable techniques while performing professional services.
3. Maintain competency in their respective fields and strive to constantly improve their professional skills.
4. Offer only professional services for which they are qualified to perform, and adequately inform clients and consumers about the nature of proposed services, including any relevant concerns or risks.
5. Inform each employer or client of any business interests or affiliations which might influence their judgment or impair their fairness.
6. Treat in a confidential and private manner the information acquired during professional and business dealings of any present or former employer or client without its proper consent.
7. Comply with all laws and regulations of the jurisdictions where professional activities are conducted.
8. Respect the intellectual property and contributions of others.
9. Not communicate intentionally false or falsified information that may compromise the integrity of the evaluation process of a candidate for a professional designation.
10. Not act in any manner that could compromise the reputation of PECB or its certification programs.
11. Fully cooperate on the inquiry following a claimed infringement of this Code of Ethics.

The full version of the PECB Code of Ethics can be downloaded from this link: <https://pecb.com/en/pecb-code-of-ethics>.



Introduction

ISO 22000 is a standard developed by the International Organization for Standardization which specifies the requirements for a Food Safety Management System. Food safety is linked to food-borne hazards that can occur at any stage in the food chain, hence this standard provides information of the adequate controls needed in order to overcome and/or prevent such hazards.

The ISO 22000 Lead Auditor training aims to provide the candidate with the necessary tools and knowledge to effectively prepare internal, second and third party audits based on the standard's requirements, while gaining knowledge in food safety management principles and auditing. The applicability of the ISO 22000 requirements in an organization depends on the organization's size, complexity, activities, management model, and the risks and opportunities it encounters.

This standard integrates the principles of the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) system and application steps developed by the Codex Alimentarius Commission. By means of auditable requirements, it combines the HACCP plan with prerequisite programmes. Hazard analysis is the key to an effective FSMS, since conducting a hazard analysis assists in organizing the knowledge required to establish an effective combination of control measures.

Today's employers are not just seeking food safety management professionals, but want proof that these professionals hold a predetermined set of knowledge and skills. Companies now place a high degree of importance on hiring, contracting with, and promoting credentialed practitioners prepared to tackle today and tomorrow's challenges in food safety.

It is important to understand that PECB certifications are not a license or simply a membership. It is peer recognition that an individual has demonstrated proficiency in, and comprehension of, a series of competences. PECB certifications are awarded to candidates that can provide proof of experience, professional references and have passed a standardized exam in the certification area.

This document specifies the PECB ISO 22000 Certification schemes in compliance with the ISO/IEC 17024 standard (Conformity assessment — General Requirements for bodies operating certification of persons). This handbook also contains information on the process by which candidates may earn and maintain their credentials. It is very important that you read all the information contained in this booklet before completing and submitting your application. If questions arise after reading this application handbook, please contact the PECB office at certification@pecb.com.

Eric Lachapelle
Chief Executive Officer

Faton Aliu
President and Chief Operating Officer



PECB Certification Process Steps

1. Decide which Certification is Right for You

Each PECB certification has specific education and a set of experience requirements. To determine which credential is right for you, verify all eligibility requirements for the different ISO 22000 certifications and your professional needs.

2. Prepare for the Exam

All certification candidates are responsible for their own study and preparation for the examination. No specific set of courses or curriculum of study is required as part of the certification process. Likewise, the completion of a course or program of study will significantly enhance your chance of passing a PECB certification examination. To learn more about exams, competency domains and knowledge statements please go to: [Exam Preparation Guides](#).

3. Apply and Schedule the Exam

Candidates shall contact one of our partners, who provide training courses and exam sessions worldwide. To find a training provider in your region, please follow this link https://pecb.com/partner/active_partners. Also, the PECB training schedule is available here <https://pecb.com/events>.

4. Take the Exam

Candidates will be required to arrive at least thirty (30) minutes before the start of the certification exam. Candidates arriving late will not be given additional time to compensate for the late arrival and may be denied entry to the exam. All candidates are required to present a valid identity card such as a national ID card, driver's license, or passport to the invigilator. The duration of the exam varies according to the type of examination taken (find below the description of the different exams for more details). Additional time can be given to candidates taking the exam in a language different than their mother tongue (when requested by the candidates, on the exam day).

Exam type:

Essay types, known as "open book" exams, are exams where the candidates are authorized to use only the following reference materials:

- A copy of the ISO 22000:2018 standard;
- A copy of the ISO 19011:2018 standard;
- Course notes from the Participant Handout;
- Any personal notes made by the candidate during the course session; and
- A hard copy dictionary.

For more information about exam details, please visit [Examination Rules and Policies](#).

5. Receive your Exam Results

Results will be communicated by email within a period of 6 to 8 weeks from your examination date. The candidate will be provided with only two possible examination results: pass or fail, rather than an exact grade.

In case of exam failure, the results will be accompanied with the list of domains in which the candidate failed to fully answer the question(s). This can help the candidate better prepare for a retake exam. Candidates, who disagree with the exam results, may file a complaint by writing to examination@pecb.com.



6. Apply for Certification

All participants who successfully pass their certification exam (or an equivalent accepted by PECB) are entitled to apply for the PECB credentials they were examined for. Specific educational and professional requirements will need to be fulfilled in order to attain a PECB certified. Candidates are required to fill out the online certification application form <https://pecb.com/en/user/checkEmail>, and fill out all other online forms (that can be accessed via their PECB online profile), including contact details of references who will be contacted to validate the candidate's professional experience. Lastly, before submitting the application, a candidate can choose to pay online or be billed. In case the candidate needs additional information, he/she should contact accounting@pecb.com and/or certification@pecb.com.

The approval of the application occurs as soon as the Certification Department validates that you fulfil all the certification requirements regarding the credential you have applied for. An email will be sent to the email address you provided during your application process to communicate your application status. If approved, you will then be able to download your certificate from your PECB member account.

7. Maintain your Certification

PECB certifications are valid for three years. To maintain the certification, the applicant shall demonstrate every year that he/she is still performing tasks that are related to the certification. PECB Certified professionals shall annually provide PECB with the number of hours of auditing and/or implementation-related tasks they have performed, along with the contact details of individuals who can validate such tasks. Additionally, certified professionals should regularly pay the annual PECB certification maintenance fees.

A notification email is sent to our certified members, who are required to submit their Continuing Professional Development (CPD) credits along with the Annual Maintenance Fee (AMF) three months before the annual date of their certification. The PECB certified members will then be able to submit their CPDs by visiting their account and providing the required information for the respective certification.



ISO 22000 Lead Auditor

ISO 22000 Auditor credentials are professional certifications for candidates who intend to demonstrate the competence to audit a Food Safety Management System (FSMS) and, in case of the "ISO 22000 Lead Auditor" certification, able to manage and lead an audit team.

The principal competences and skills needed by the market are the ability to effectively plan and perform audits compliant with the certification process of ISO 22000, master audit techniques and manage (or be part of) audit teams and the respective audit program.

The ISO 22000 Lead Auditor certification is intended for:

- Auditors seeking to perform and lead Food Safety Management System (FSMS) certification audits;
- Managers or consultants seeking to master a Food Safety Management System audit process;
- Individuals responsible for maintaining conformance with FSMS requirements;
- Technical experts seeking to prepare for a Food Safety Management System audit;
- Expert advisors in Food Safety Management.

The requirements for “PECB ISO 22000 Auditor” Certifications are:

Credential	Exam	Professional experience	MS audit/assessment experience	Other requirements
PECB Certified ISO 22000 Provisional Auditor	PECB Certified ISO 22000 Lead Auditor Exam or equivalent	None	None	Signing the PECB Code of Ethics
PECB Certified ISO 22000 Auditor	PECB Certified ISO 22000 Lead Auditor Exam or equivalent	Two years: One year of work experience in Food Safety Management	Audit activities: a total of 200 hours	Signing the PECB Code of Ethics
PECB Certified ISO 22000 Lead Auditor	PECB Certified ISO 22000 Lead Auditor Exam or equivalent	Five years: Two years of work experience in Food Safety Management	Audit activities: a total of 300 hours	Signing the PECB Code of Ethics
PECB Certified ISO 22000 Senior Lead Auditor	PECB Certified ISO 22000 Lead Auditor Exam or equivalent	Ten years: Seven years of work experience in Food Safety Management	Audit activities: a total of 1,000 hours	Signing the PECB Code of Ethics

If an applicant does not have all the requirements to apply for the credential of ISO 22000 Lead Auditor, he/she may apply for the credential of ISO 22000 Auditor or ISO 22000 Provisional Auditor.

To be considered valid, these audits should follow best audit practices and include the following activities:

1. Audit planning
2. Audit interview
3. Managing an audit program
4. Drafting audit reports
5. Drafting non-conformity reports
6. Drafting audit working documents
7. Documentation review
8. On-site audit



9. Follow-up on non-conformities
10. Leading an audit team

General Information

Applying for Certification

Candidates who apply for PECB certification will need to provide the following:

- Two references, including their names and contact details;
- Their most recent CV;
- Their food safety management audit log.

PECB will validate professional experience with your references to ensure the accuracy of all applications.

About Application

Language

PECB provides support in English and French.

Application Fees for Certification

The application fee for certification is USD 500.

For all the candidates that have followed the training and the examination with one of PECB's Partners, application fees include examination, application for certification and one year of Annual Maintenance Fee (AMF).

Examination Cancellations

Please contact your partner for any changes regarding examination date, time, location, or other details.

About Examination

Admission Rules to Examination

Candidates shall comply with all security rules established for the examination. For more specific information about this exam, please contact examination@pecb.com to request a copy of the corresponding exam preparation guide, or download it from the PECB website: <https://pecb.com/en/exam-preparation-guides>.

Examination Security

A significant component of a successful and respected professional certification credential is maintaining the security and confidentiality of the examination. PECB relies upon the ethical behavior of certificate holders and applicants to maintain the security and confidentiality of PECB examinations. When someone who holds PECB credentials reveals information about PECB examination content, he/she violates the PECB Code of Ethics. PECB will take action against individuals who violate PECB Policies and the Code of Ethics. Actions taken may include permanently barring individuals from pursuing PECB credentials and revoking certifications from those who have been awarded the credential. PECB will also pursue legal action against individuals or organizations who infringe upon its copyrights, proprietary rights, and intellectual property.



Exam Tips

On the day of the exam:

1. Plan to arrive at the exam site at least 30 minutes prior to your appointment.
2. Get a good night's rest the night before.
3. Eat a well-balanced meal prior to reporting to the exam center. Avoid excessive stimulants such as caffeine.
4. Read and follow the instructions carefully. Ask the proctor for clarification if you are not sure about the instructions.
5. Periodically check your progress. This will allow you to make any adjustments in time. Pay attention to the remaining time to finish the exam.
6. Only the questions you answer correctly are scored. There are no penalties for answering a question incorrectly, so answer as many questions as you can.

Examination Scores and Scoring Method

PECB grades all examinations fairly. There is no predetermined percentage of participants who fail and pass, so candidates do not compete against each other. Test scores are based on the number of items answered correctly.

Examination Results

Scores are strictly confidential and they cannot be obtained over the phone or sent to a third party. If you have questions concerning your test results, you should direct them in writing to examination@pecb.com.

Exam Retake Policy

There is no limit on the number of times a candidate may retake an exam. However, there are some limitations in terms of the allowed time frame in between exam retakes, such as:

- If a candidate does not pass the exam on the first attempt, he/she must wait 15 days for the next attempt (1st retake). Retake fee apply.

Note: *Candidates, who have completed the full training but failed the written exam, are eligible to retake the exam once for free within a 12 month period from the initial date of the exam.*

- If a candidate does not pass the exam on the second attempt, he/she must wait 3 months (from the initial date of the exam) for the next attempt (2nd retake). Retake fees apply.
- If a candidate does not pass the exam on the third attempt, he/she must wait for 6 months (from the initial date of the exam) for the next attempt (3rd retake). Retake fees apply.

After the fourth attempt, a waiting period of 12 months from the last session date is required, in order for the candidate to retake the same exam. Regular fees apply.

For the candidates that fail the exam in the 2nd retake, PECB recommends to attend an official training in order to be better prepared for the exam.

To arrange exam retakes (date, time, place, costs), the candidate needs to contact the PECB partner who has initially organized the session.

Closing a Case

If an applicant does not apply for his/her certificate within three years, their case will be closed. Even though an applicant's certification period expires, they have the right to reopen their case. However, PECB will no longer be responsible for any changes regarding the conditions, standards, policies, candidate handbook or exam preparation guide that were applicable before



the applicant's case was closed. Applicants requesting their case to reopen must do so in writing, and pay the required fees.

About Certification

Professional References

Professional reference contacts shall be individuals who have professionally worked with you and can validate your Food Safety Management expertise, current and previous work history, as well as your job performance. You cannot use anyone as a reference who falls under your supervision, or who is a relative. The candidate shall provide two professional references for each certification application.

Professional Experience

Complete information is required: including job title, commence and end dates, job description and more. Summarize each assignment, providing sufficient details to describe the nature of the responsibilities that you have had. The detailed information is advised to be included in the résumé.

FSMS Audit Experience

The candidate's Food Safety Management audit experience log will be checked to ensure that the applicant has the required number of audit hours.

The following audit types constitute valid audit experience: pre-assessment/pre-audit, gap analysis, internal audits, second party audits, third/external audits or opinion audits. It is advisable that this information be detailed in your résumé.

Evaluation of Certification Applications

The Certification Department will evaluate each application to validate the candidate's eligibility for certification. A candidate whose application is being reviewed will be notified in writing and given a reasonable timeframe to provide any additional documentation, if required. If a candidate does not respond by the deadline, or does not provide the required documentation within the given time frame, he/she may be declared ineligible.

Denial and Revocation of Certification

Certification will be denied or revoked for any of the following reasons:

- Falsification of application
- Violation of testing procedures
- Misrepresentation
- Failure to pass the examination

Denials or revocations of certification may be appealed to the Certification Body in writing.

The application payment for the certificate is not refundable. This is due to the initiation of the procedures concerning the verification of the application, verification of the evidence submitted by the candidates, as well as the engagement of the relevant units in this process.

Annual Renewal Certification Fee

To maintain your credentials active, there is an annual renewal fee for each calendar year. Registrants who pay their annual renewal fee will appear online in the PECB Directory of Certified Professional.

Recertification

The PECB designations are valid for three years. To maintain his/her certification, the applicant must demonstrate every year that he/she is still performing tasks that are related to the certification. Three months before the expiration date of the certification, the certified member will



be informed via email that he/she can submit their final CPD information along with AMF and a renew link will be displayed on his/her dashboard, next to his/her specific certificate.

PECB certified professional who fails to provide the required CPD hours will have his/her PECB credentials downgraded.

To find out more about Certification maintenance and re-certification process, please visit: <https://pecb.com/en/certification-maintenance>.

Upgrade of Credentials

Professional can apply to upgrade to a higher credential as soon as they can document that they fulfil the requirements.

In order to apply for an upgrade, please log in to your PECB Member Account, visit the "My Certifications" tab and click on the "Upgrade" link. The upgrade application fee is \$100.

For example, if a professional has been certified as an ISO 22000 Auditor and has 5 years of work experience, two of which are related to food safety management, and a total of 200 hours of audit activities, and within a year he/she makes an additional 100 hours, adding up to a total of 300 hours audit activities, the professional can apply to be upgraded to ISO 22000 Lead Auditor.

About PECB General Policies


PECB Code of Ethics

The PECB Code of Ethics can be found at: <https://pecb.com/en/pecb-code-of-ethics>. Adherence of professionals to the PECB Code of Ethics is a voluntary engagement. However, if a member does not follow this code by engaging in gross misconduct, PECB membership may be terminated and certifications revoked. Not only is it important for PECB certified professionals to adhere to the principles expressed in this Code, but also each member should encourage and support adherence by other members.

Other Exams and Certifications

PECB does accept certifications and exams provided from other recognized accredited certification bodies. PECB will evaluate the requests through its equivalence process to decide whether the respective certification(s) and/or exam(s) can be accepted as equivalent to the respective PECB Certificate (e.g., ISO/IEC 27001 Lead Auditor Certificate).

Non-discrimination and Special Accommodations

All candidate applications shall be evaluated objectively without regard to age, sex, race, religion, national origin, or marital status. PECB will allow for reasonable accommodation ⁽¹⁾ as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) ⁽²⁾ or an equivalent National Law. A candidate who needs special accommodation must make the request in writing and allow an extra two weeks for processing of the application. Click here to download [Special Accommodations for Candidates with Disabilities Form](#) 

Complaints and Appeals

Requests for an appeal must be made no later than 30 days after the applicant is denied certification. Within 30 days after the receipt of the written appeal, PECB must provide the applicant with a written response. You can read more about complaint and appeal procedure by visiting the following link: <https://pecb.com/en/complaint-and-appeal-procedure>.



(1) According to ADA the term “reasonable accommodation” may include: (A) making existing facilities used by employees readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities; and (B) job restructuring, part-time or modified work schedules, reassignment to a vacant position, acquisition or modification of equipment or devices, appropriate adjustment or modifications of examinations, training materials or policies, the provision of qualified

(2) ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-325) Sec. 12189. Examinations and courses. [Section 309]: Any person that offers examinations or courses related to applications, licensing, certification, or credentialing for secondary or postsecondary education, professional, or trade purposes shall offer such examinations or courses in a place and manner accessible to persons with disabilities or offer alternative accessible arrangements for such individuals.



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PECB Help Center

Visit our [Help Center](#) to browse Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), view manuals for using PECB website and applications, read documents related to PECB processes, or to contact us via Support Center’s online tracking system. Visit Help Center here: www.pecb.com/help.

Emails:

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Certification: certification@pecb.com

Customer Service: customer@pecb.com

Website: www.pecb.com

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