



# Candidate Handbook

ISO 9001 MASTER

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## ABOUT PECB

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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, Information Technology, 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 internationally recognized standards. Our mission is to provide our clients with comprehensive services that inspire trust, demonstrate recognition, and benefit the society as a whole.

**The principal objectives of PECB include:**

1. Establishing the minimum requirements necessary to certify professionals, organizations, and products
2. Reviewing and verifying the qualifications of candidates to ensure that they are eligible to apply for a PECB certificate
3. Developing and maintaining reliable, valid, and current PECB certificate application processes
4. Granting certificates to qualified candidates, organizations, and products; maintaining records; and publishing a directory of the candidate who hold valid PECB certificates
5. Establishing requirements for the periodic renewal of PECB certificates and ensuring compliance with those requirements
6. Ascertaining that certified individuals meet ethical standards and adhere to the PECB Code of Ethics
7. Promoting the benefits of certification for organizations, employers, public officials, practitioners in related fields, and the public

## VALUE OF PECB CERTIFICATION

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### Why Choose PECB as Your Certification Body?

#### Global Recognition

Selecting the right certification body that offers qualitative and credible training and certification services can be challenging. However, by choosing an accredited certification body such as PECB proves that you are compliant with best practices, up to date, and trustworthy.

Individuals who obtain a PECB certificate will benefit from the recognition in domestic and overseas markets. Being accredited by some of the most reputable accreditation bodies in the world gives us global recognition.

#### Competent Personnel

The core team of PECB consists of competent individuals who have relevant sector experience. All of our employees hold professional credentials and are constantly trained to provide more than satisfactory services to our clients.

#### Compliance with Standards

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

#### Reasonable Fees

Apart from being the lowest charging organization for professional training and certification services, including both the examination and certification processes, PECB also charges 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 affordable? PECB certifications have proven to be effective instruments for the validation of knowledge, skills, and experience in a rapidly changing economy. By holding a PECB certification, you will demonstrate that you have the necessary capabilities to safeguard 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

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### 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 adhering to the professional standards and applicable techniques while offering professional services
3. Maintain competency in their respective fields and strive to constantly improve their professional capabilities
4. Offer only professional services for which they are qualified to perform, and adequately inform clients about the nature of the proposed services, including any relevant concerns or risks
5. Inform each employer or client of any business interests or affiliations that 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, intentionally or otherwise, communicate 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 here: [Code of Ethics | PECB](#)

## INTRODUCTION

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ISO 9001:2015 specifies the requirements for a quality management system, whereby an organization needs to:

- Demonstrate its ability to consistently provide products that meet customer and applicable statutory and regulatory requirements;
- Enhance customer satisfaction through the effective application of the system;
- Address risks and opportunities associated with its context and objectives; and
- Demonstrate conformity to specified quality management system requirements.

All the requirements of ISO 9001 are generic and are intended to be applicable to all organizations, regardless of type, size and products provided.

The applicability of ISO 9001 requirement(s) must be reviewed as their applicability depends on the organization's size, complexity, activities, management model, and the risks and opportunities it encounters.

Considering that auditing is an increasingly demanded profession, an internationally recognized certification can help you maximize your career potential and reach your professional objectives.

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

This document specifies the PECB ISO 9001 Master certification scheme in compliance with ISO/IEC 17024:2012 (Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons). This candidate handbook also contains information about the process by which candidates may earn and maintain their credentials. It is very important that you read all the information included in this candidate handbook before completing and submitting your application. If questions arise after reading this candidate handbook, please contact the PECB international office at [certification.team@pecb.com](mailto:certification.team@pecb.com).

## PECB CERTIFICATION PROCESS STEPS

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### 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 various Quality Management certifications and your professional needs.

### 2. How to get PECB master credential?

In order to become a PECB Master certified, an individual should fulfill all the PECB requirements. PECB certified individuals who possess the Lead Implementer and Lead Auditor credentials or passed the respective exams are qualified for a PECB Certified Master Credential. Furthermore, individuals should accomplish a number of hours of activities in implementation and auditing of ISO 9001 and also pass four foundation exams related to the certification field.

### 3. Apply for certification

All candidates who successfully pass the exam (or an equivalent accepted by PECB) are entitled to apply for the PECB credentials they were examined for. Specific educational and professional requirements need to be fulfilled in order to obtain a PECB certification. Candidates are required to fill out the online certification application form [PECB - Member Registration](#), 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, the candidate can choose to pay online or be billed. For additional information, the candidate can contact [accounting.support@pecb.com](mailto:accounting.support@pecb.com) or [certification.team@pecb.com](mailto:certification.team@pecb.com).

The approval of the application occurs as soon as the Certification Department validates that the candidate fulfills all the certification requirements regarding the respective credential. An email will be sent to the email address you provided during your application process to communicate your application status. If approved, the candidate will then be able to download the certificate from their PECB Account.

### 4. 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 the 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 CPD credits by visiting their account and providing the required information for the respective certification.

## ISO 9001 MASTER

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The ISO 9001 Master credential is a professional certification for candidates who intend to demonstrate the competence to manage and implement a Quality Management System (QMS) and master the audit techniques to manage (or be part of) audit teams and audit programs.

The principal competencies and knowledge skills needed by the market are the ability to support an organization to effectively manage and implement a Quality Management System as specified in ISO 9001, as well as manage an audit program.

**The ISO 9001 Master certification is intended for:**

- Senior managers or senior consultants seeking to master the implementation of a Quality Management System (QMS)
- Senior auditors wishing to master the Quality Management System (QMS) audit process
- Senior experts in Quality Management

**The requirements for PECB ISO 9001 Master Certifications are:**

Credential	Exam	Professional experience	QMS experience	Other requirements
<b>PECB Certified ISO 9001 Master</b>	PECB Certified ISO 9001 Lead Implementer Exam or equivalent and PECB Certified ISO 9001 Lead Auditor Exam or equivalent (4 additional foundation exams)	<b>15 years:</b> 10 years of work experience in Quality Management	Audit activities: 700 hours Project activities: 700 hours	Signing the PECB Code of Ethics

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

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### Applying for Certification

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

- Two references, including their names and contact details
- Their most recent CV
- Their quality management project/audit log

PECB will validate a candidate's professional experience with the references to ensure the accuracy of the application.

### About Application

#### Language

PECB provides support in both English and French languages.

#### Application Fees for Certification

The application fee for certification is \$100.

For all the candidates that have followed the training course and the exam with one of PECB's resellers, the application fee includes the costs associated with examination, application for certification, and the first year of Annual Maintenance Fee (AMF) only.

## ABOUT CERTIFICATION

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### Professional References

For each certification application, two professional references are required. Professional references shall be the individuals who have worked with you in a professional environment and can validate your quality management expertise, current, and previous work history. You cannot use as a professional reference the persons who fall under your supervision or are a relative of yours.

### Professional Experience

Candidates shall provide complete information regarding their professional experience, including job title(s), commencement and end date(s), job description(s), and more. Candidates are advised to summarize their previous or current assignments, providing sufficient details to describe the nature of the responsibilities that they have had. More detailed information can be included in the résumé.

### QMS Audit Experience

The candidate's audit log will be checked to ensure that the candidate has the required number of audit hours. The following audit types constitute valid audit experience: pre-audit, gap analysis, internal audits, second party audits, third party audits, or opinion audits.

### QMS Project Experience

The candidate's QMS project log will be checked to ensure that the candidate has the required number of implementation hours.

### 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 time frame to provide any additional documentation if necessary. If a candidate does not respond by the deadline, or does not provide the required documentation within the given time frame, he or she may be declared ineligible.

### Denial of Certification

PECB can deny certification if candidates:

- Falsify the application
- Violate the exam procedures
- Violate the PECB Code of Ethics
- Fail the exam

Any concerns regarding the denial of certification can be appealed in writing to the Certification Board.

The application payment for the certificate is non-refundable. This is because of the process of verifying the application, verifying the evidence submitted by the candidates, and verifying the engagement of the relevant units in this process.

### Suspension of Certification

PECB can temporarily suspend certification if the candidate fails to satisfy the requirements of PECB. Additional reasons for suspending certification can be if:

- PECB receives excessive or serious complaints by interested parties (Suspension will be applied until the investigation has been completed.).

# PECB

- The logos of PECB or Accreditation Bodies are wilfully misused.
- The candidate fails to correct the misuse of a certification mark within the determined time by PECB.
- The certified individual has voluntarily requested a suspension.
- PECB deems appropriate other conditions for suspension of certification

## Revocation of Certification

PECB can revoke (that is, to withdraw) certification if the candidate fails to satisfy the PECB requirements. Candidates are then no longer allowed to represent themselves as PECB certified professionals. Additional reasons for revoking certification can be if candidates:

- Violate the PECB Code of Ethics
- Misrepresent and provide false information of the scope of the certificate
- Break any other PECB rules

## 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

PECB certificates are valid for three years. In order to maintain a certificate, candidates are required to provide evidence that they are performing activities related to the respective certification on an annual basis. In addition, candidates are also required to pay the Annual Maintenance Fee (AMF).

After successfully maintaining a PECB certificate for three years, candidates can then apply for a renewal of their certificate.

**Note:** *PECB Certified Professionals who hold Lead Certificates and fail to provide evidence of certification maintenance requirements will have their credentials downgraded. On the other hand, holders of Master Certificates who fail to submit CPDs and pay AMFs will have their certificates revoked.*

To find out more about the Recertification process, please visit:

[Certification Maintenance Policy | PECB.](#)

## ABOUT PECB GENERAL POLICIES

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### PECB Code of Ethics

You can find the PECB Code of Ethics at: [Code of Ethics | PECB](#). Adherence 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 of 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) 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 <sup>(1)</sup> as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) <sup>(2)</sup> or an equivalent National Law. A candidate who needs special accommodation must make the request in writing and allow an extra two weeks for the processing of the application. Click here to download [Special Accommodations for Candidates with Disabilities Form](#) 

### Complaints and Appeals

Any complaint that a candidate has must be made no later than 30 days after their certification has been denied. Within 30 working days after receiving the complaint, PECB will provide a written response to the candidate. Should the response from PECB not be satisfactory, the candidate has the right to file an appeal. You can read more about the complaint and appeal procedures by visiting the following link: [Complaint and Appeal Policy | PECB](#).

(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](https://help.pecb.com/) 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: <https://help.pecb.com/>

**Emails:**

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Customer Service: [support@pecb.com](mailto:support@pecb.com)

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