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Approval: J. Hwang	SAI Notification 1: Transition Timeline For SA8000:2026	Effective: May 12, 2025



## Notification 1

Issue: 1  
Date: May 12, 2025  
To: All SAAS Accredited and Applicant Certification Bodies (CBs)  
From: Chris Lamoureux, Senior Manager, Standards & Impacts  
RE: Transition Requirements for Certification of Organisations to SA8000:2026

**Preamble:** SAI published a Working Draft of the SA8000:2026 on March 31, 2025. This document (Notification 1) is the first in a series of policy and process documents that will be available detailing the transition and planning requirements for the SA8000:2026 Standard for certification. This Notification outlines the preliminary timeline for organisations to transition to SA8000:2026 and is applicable for organisations currently certified to SA8000:2014 as well as organisations seeking initial certification to SA8000:2026.

**Status:** This document (Notification 1) should be read in conjunction with additional timelines and supporting documents currently or soon to be available describing the Standard, Indicators, Social Fingerprint, certification process, and training requirements for existing and new SA8000-related personnel. This document may be updated from time to time. All documents can be downloaded from the SAI website upon availability.

Relevant Dates	Required Activity
December 31, 2025	Deadline: CBs SHALL develop a transition plan for integrating SA8000:2026 and updated SA8000 certification scheme requirements into their management systems. <b>The CB SHALL submit this transition plan to SAAS for review.</b>
January 1, 2026	A CB MAY begin conducting SA8000:2026 audits provided <b>it has received approval from SAAS.</b> In order to deliver SA8000:2026 audits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CBs SHALL have amended all SA8000 system documents including: forms, instructions, contracts, policies and procedures. The revised documents SHALL reflect the normative requirements found in ISO 17021-1:2015 and updated SA8000 certification scheme requirements for conducting certification audit to SA8000:2026.</li> <li>CBs SHALL have complied with the timeline and process for training SA8000-related personnel.</li> </ul>
June 30, 2026	Deadline: CBs SHALL have fully amended all SA8000 system documents including: forms, instructions, contracts, policies and procedures. The revised documents SHALL reflect the normative requirements found in ISO 17021-1:2015 and updated SA8000 certification scheme requirements for conducting certification audit to SA8000:2026. CBs SHALL have complied with the timeline and process for training SA8000-related personnel.
July 1, 2026	SAAS SHALL begin accepting applications for new CB accreditation to ISO 17021-1:2015 and SA8000 certification scheme requirements to conduct SA8000:2026 audits.
January 1, 2027	Deadline: As of this date, <b>all SA8000 certification audits of new clients SHALL be to SA8000:2026.</b>
January 1, 2027	Deadline: As of this date, <b>all SA8000 recertification audits of existing clients SHALL be to SA8000:2026.</b>
December 31, 2028	Deadline: As of this date, <b>ALL SA8000 certified organisations SHALL have transitioned to SA8000:2026.</b>
January 1, 2029	Deadline: As of this date any remaining existing SA8000:2014 certificates SHALL be withdrawn.

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