

The Open Group Certification for People

**Training Course
Accreditation Policy**

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The Open Group Certification for People: Training Course Accreditation Policy

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1. Overview

1.1 Introduction

The Open Group operates a number of certification programs for people in which certification is awarded to individuals who demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a Body of Knowledge by passing one or more examinations. The Open Group also operates a credentials program in which a credential is awarded to individuals who demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a Body of Knowledge by passing an Assessment. These certification and credential programs are referred to collectively as “the Programs” in this document.

This document – The Open Group Certification for People: Training Course Accreditation Policy – is an integral part of the terms and conditions of each Certification for People Program of The Open Group and of The Open Group Certification for People: Credentials Program. Defined terms herein are in addition to definitions provided in the Program Configuration document of the particular Program.

This document sets out the policies and processes by which a certification training course or a credential training course may achieve accreditation. Training courses eligible for accreditation are those courses designed to help people acquire the necessary knowledge and understanding of a Body of Knowledge in order for the person to achieve certification or earn a credential.

1.2 Purpose of Accreditation

Accreditation provides an authoritative and independent assurance of the conformance and relevance of training courses.

Once a course is accredited, training course providers may:

- Use the Accreditation Logo in their promotional material
- Participate in The Open Group ATC Provider events where they can learn about plans for future developments and influence the direction that the Program takes
- Gain early access to The Open Group ATC Provider documentation enabling pre-launch training course materials update submission
- Add authorized trainers and get their updated training course materials assessed at no additional cost
- Enjoy ATC Providers’ commercial privileges (e.g., discounted vouchers and participation in promotional activities)
- Be authorized to operate certification-related services
- Use Brokers to promote their Accredited Training Course(s)

Accreditation of a training course means that:

- There is adequate coverage of the Body of Knowledge with an appropriate mix of lectures and practical work, for attendees to obtain the mandatory learning outcomes appropriate to the level of the course

- Materials (including presentations, candidate handouts, course tutor notes, exercises, and case studies) are relevant to the Body of Knowledge and are kept up-to-date in line with changes to the Body of Knowledge
- Trainers are appropriately qualified, are skilled in teaching, have knowledge of and experience in the subject area, are familiar with the Body of Knowledge, and keep themselves up-to-date in line with changes to the Body of Knowledge
- The training course provider has the capability to offer the training course in terms of organization, physical resources, administration, trainers, and marketing
- Sufficient guidance is available to Candidates and their employers, before enrollment, on whether any prior knowledge and experience is expected for each course
- Candidate feedback is actively sought and acted upon

1.3 Offering Accredited Training

Accreditation of a training course covers the ecosystem involved in the training delivery, including the training course materials, the individuals who perform the training, and the business practices of the training organization relative to all aspects of course operations. An eligible course trains individuals in a Body of Knowledge and, depending on the type of course, may also cover one or more level(s) of certification, delivery method(s), and delivery language(s).

1.4 Scope and Applicability

This Accreditation Policy applies to the accreditation of training courses designed to train individuals in a Body of Knowledge. This Policy is intended also to cover accreditation to future versions of the documents that compose the Body of Knowledge and is intended to remain in place as the Programs to which it applies are introduced and evolved over time.

Course providers may choose which of their courses they wish to be assessed for accreditation and may in parallel offer any number of related or unrelated courses that are not accredited in the Program, provided the course provider adheres to The Open Group Trademark Licensing requirements and makes no inference of accreditation where none exists.

1.5 Examinations and Courses

An individual may achieve certification either by passing the applicable examination(s) provided by The Open Group as documented in the applicable Conformance Requirements or by successful completion of another means of Assessment as approved by The Open Group from time to time.

There is no requirement in the Program for people to attend a course to achieve certification, unless indicated otherwise for a particular Program in the Program Configuration document, although attendance at an Accredited Training Course is strongly encouraged.

1.6 Levels of Certification

The levels of certification available in a Program at any particular time are listed in the Program Configuration document. The requirements for certification at each level are described in detail in the Conformance Requirements document.

1.7 Languages

The definitive version of the Body of Knowledge for each Program is written in English. Translations to other languages may be made available, according to market demand.

Examinations will be available in English for each Program. Examinations may also be made available in other languages. Information on supported languages is available on the Program website.

Candidates whose first language is not English may request to take an English as a Second Language (ESL) examination if a native language examination is not available. Candidates approved for an ESL examination will be allowed extra time to take the examination and will be allowed to use a dictionary during the examination.

Providers of Accredited Training Courses delivered wholly or partly in a language for which no corresponding examination is available may offer other means of Assessment, subject to approval by The Open Group.

1.8 Fees

Accreditation fees are payable initially upon registration of a course for accreditation and annually thereafter.

Candidate fees are payable for each person who attends an Accredited Training Course. The fee covers the provision of the applicable examination or Assessment and is due per Candidate independent of the course and examination or Assessment delivery method and location.

The schedule of fees is published on the Certification Authority's website and may be updated from time to time.

1.9 Terminology and Definitions

This table defines terms or clarifies the meaning of words used within this document. Where an abbreviation is also used, it is provided in parentheses.

Term	Definition
Accreditation Logo	The trademarks and tag lines as designated from time to time by The Open Group for use in association with Accredited Training Courses.
Accreditation Package	The documents and other information provided by the Organization for inspection during the Assessment process.
Accreditation Register	The official list of all Accredited Training Courses, which is maintained by the Certification Authority and made publicly available on the Certification Authority's website.
Accreditation Requirements	The criteria that both a training course and the training course provider must meet in order for that course to be deemed conformant.
Accreditation Trademark License Agreement (Accreditation TMLA)	The agreement between the Organization and The Open Group that contains the legal commitment by the Organization to the terms and conditions for use of the Accreditation Logo.

Term	Definition
Accredited Training Course (ATC)	A training course, operated by a training course provider, that has successfully completed the accreditation process and which is listed in the Accreditation Register.
Assessment	An inspection of an Organization’s training course materials, processes, policies, and staff to determine the degree to which the training course is operating in accordance with the Accreditation Requirements.
Assessor	The individual or individuals who have been appointed by the Certification Authority to perform Assessments.
ATC Manager	The specific individual(s) identified within an ATC Provider as having the overall responsibility for managing the Accredited Training Course on a day-to-day basis and ensuring that it is carried out in accordance with its documented processes and procedures.
ATC Provider	A provider of training courses that offers at least one Accredited Training Course.
Body of Knowledge	The standard(s) and/or normative publication(s) that contain the knowledge covered by the Program, as defined in the Program Configuration document.
Broker	An advertising, promotions and/or marketing services entity that is not a training provider or trainer, and that enters into a commercial contract with an ATC Provider enabling them to advertise, promote, and market the Accredited Training Course. A broker redirects learners to the ATC Provider upon registration, and is not involved in operations related to the delivery of the ATC.
Candidate	A person seeking to earn a credential or seeking certification in one of the Programs.
Certificate of Accreditation	A document issued to Organizations by the Certification Authority certifying that a training course has successfully met the requirements for accreditation and thus is considered an Accredited Training Course.
Certification Authority (CA)	The organization that manages the day-to-day operations of the Program. The Open Group is the Certification Authority for each of the Programs.
Certification System Deficiency (CSD)	An agreed error in the certification and/or accreditation systems that is inhibiting the certification or accreditation process. A Certification System Deficiency is one possible outcome of a Problem Report.
Conformance Declaration	The Organization’s documented public representation of the course, including the responsible ATC Manager, scope of the course, and delivery information.
Examination Provider	The organization(s) contracted by The Open Group to provide and administer the certification examinations.
Interpretation (INT)	Decision made by the Specification Authority that elaborates or refines the meaning of the Conformance Requirements, Certification Policy, Accreditation Requirements, Accreditation Policy, Body of Knowledge, or a standard or best practice referenced therein. An Interpretation is one possible outcome of a Problem Report.

Term	Definition
Organization	A training course provider that is applying for a training course to be accredited or that has one or more training courses that have achieved accreditation. While the Organization is in the process of having a course accredited, the Organization may be referred to as an Applicant. Once an Organization has achieved accreditation for at least one course, the Organization may be referred to as an ATC Provider.
Problem Report (PR)	A question of clarification, intent, or correctness of an accreditation or certification document, or the web-based certification or accreditation systems, which, if accepted by the Certification Authority, will be resolved into an Interpretation or a Certification System Deficiency.
Program	For a certification training course, The Open Group Certification for People Program specifically identified in the Program Configuration document of which this document forms an integral part. For a credential training course, The Open Group Certification for People: Credentials Program.
Specification Authority (SA)	The Open Group Forum or Work Group that is responsible for interpreting the Certification Policy, Conformance Requirements, Accreditation Policy, Accreditation Requirements, and Body of Knowledge of the Program. The Forum or Work Group is identified in the Program Configuration document.
Training Course Accreditation Agreement	The agreement between the Organization and the Certification Authority that defines the accreditation service to be provided and contains the legal commitment by the Organization to the conditions of the Accreditation Program. This will be the agreement applicable to the service provided; that is, the Accreditation Agreement, Credential Training Agreement.

2. Accreditation Process

This section defines the process an Organization must follow to achieve accreditation for a training course.

2.1 Roles

The following parties are involved in the accreditation process:

- Organization
- Certification Authority
- Certification Authority’s appointed Assessor
- Specification Authority

2.2 Accreditation Process Overview

Figure 1 illustrates an overview of the training course accreditation process. The steps are described in detail in the following sections.

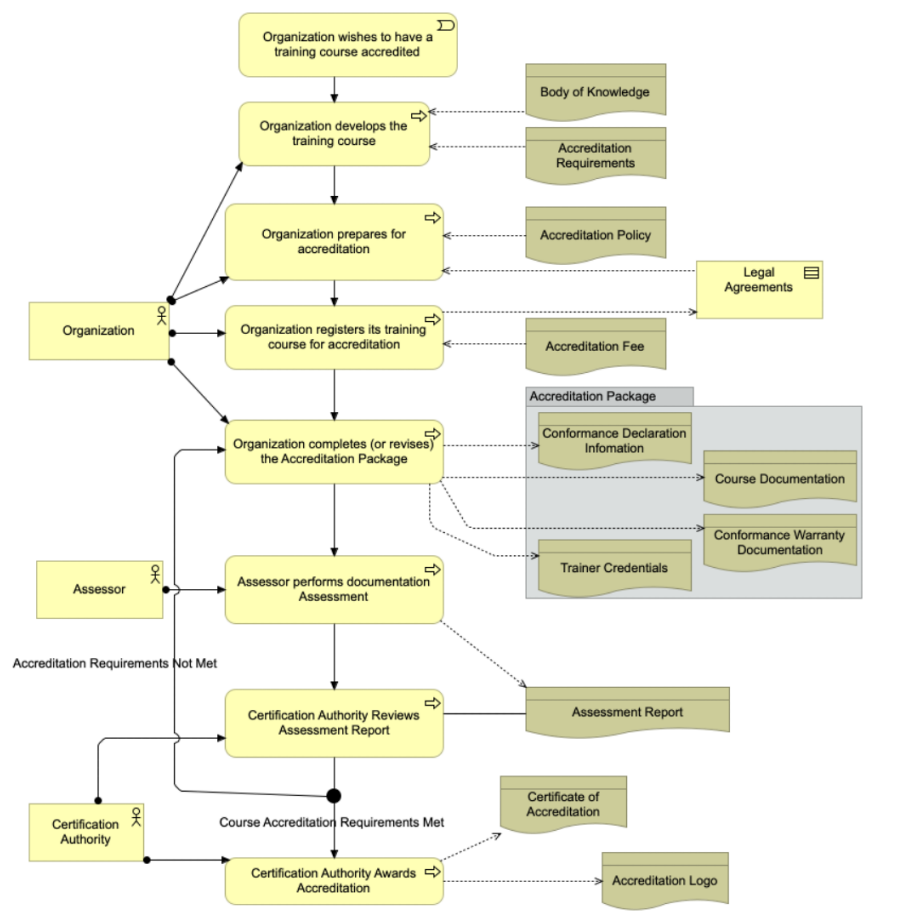


Figure 1: Accreditation Process Overview in ArchiMate® Notation

2.3 Assessment

This section defines the process used by the Assessor to review a course for conformance to the Accreditation Requirements.

The Certification Authority may use internal or third-party Assessors, or a combination thereof, to complete the Assessment. When there is more than one person involved in performing the Assessment, Assessor refers to the team of assessors.

The Certification Authority's Assessor will review the Accreditation Package, and for post-accreditation reviews, may also witness course delivery. The Assessor will produce a detailed written report of the results of the Assessment, including a description of any non-conformances that were discovered, and report the Assessment findings to the Certification Authority, along with a summary that will be one of:

- No issues observed
- Minor issues observed and accreditation may proceed subject to a plan to address them within 90 days
- Major issues observed that must be fixed in order to achieve accreditation or fixed within 30 days in order to maintain accreditation

The Certification Authority will communicate the findings to the Organization. Once the Organization has made the required improvements, the Organization must re-submit the applicable documentation for the Assessor to review. The Assessor will then update the Assessment report and resubmit it to the Certification Authority.

If the revised submission is shared after the deadline, the Organization will be required to start the process again, including payment of a new accreditation fee. In this case, the Certification Authority will reject the application for accreditation and report the discrepancies with the Accreditation Requirements. The Organization may undertake corrective action and re-apply.

2.4 Legal Agreements

Every organization wishing to become an ATC Provider must enter into legal agreements with The Open Group that cover:

- Licensing rights to the Body of Knowledge for commercial purposes (i.e., a Commercial License)
- Optionally, licensing training course materials (i.e., a Training Course Materials License)
- Terms of the accreditation service and the Organization's legal obligations (i.e., the applicable Training Course Accreditation Agreement, which will be either an Accreditation Agreement, a Credential Training Agreement)
- Licensing rights to the Accreditation Logo, including guidance on using The Open Group trademarks when marketing courses (i.e., an Accreditation Trademark License Agreement)

Some of the legal documents consist of a master agreement and schedules specific to each course to be accredited. These master agreements only need to be signed once and remain in place for the Organization, but a schedule will need to be executed for each course.

The Certification Authority will indicate which legal agreements and schedules an Organization needs to sign, based on what agreements may have been previously executed.

Every Organization is responsible for understanding the content of these various legal agreements as they spell out the Organization's obligations with respect to accreditation. Failure to meet these obligations, such as voucher purchase requirements, reporting requirements, and proper use of trademarks will result in an Organization losing its status as an ATC Provider.

2.5 Accreditation Process Steps

2.5.1 Organization Prepares for Accreditation

The Organization must become familiar with the Accreditation Requirements, which cover not only the requirements for the training course materials, but also the individual trainers, and the Organization's conformance procedures relative to all aspects of course operations. A course must fully meet these Accreditation Requirements in order to be eligible for accreditation.

The Organization should also become familiar with this Accreditation Policy, the various legal agreements, including the applicable Training Course Accreditation Agreement, and the documents related to the applicable certification Program.

All information and documents are available on the Certification Authority's website.

2.5.2 Organization Registers for Accreditation

Organizations initiate the accreditation process by contacting the Certification Authority to understand the specific documents and fees required for their course. This will depend on the type of course to be accredited and whether this is the Organization's first course to be accredited. The Organization will then complete the registration information and submit it along with the accreditation fee to the Certification Authority. The Organization must also enter into the requisite legal agreements as indicated by the Certification Authority.

Payment is due at the time an application is received. Payment is non-refundable irrespective of the outcome of the application.

As part of the registration process, the Organization must specify individuals within the Organization to be the points of contact with respect to this accreditation. All notifications regarding this accreditation and subsequent periods of accreditation will be made to the applicable accreditation contacts. It is the responsibility of the Organization to ensure that these accreditation contacts are kept up-to-date for the duration of the accreditation.

2.5.3 Organization Completes the Accreditation Package

The Accreditation Package contains all the information needed by the Assessor to carry out an initial Assessment of the course for conformance with the Accreditation Requirements, including a mapping between the training course materials and the learning outcomes defined in the applicable Conformance Requirements.

The Accreditation Package includes the full course documentation (including presentation materials and any case studies, workbooks, etc.), the trainer information for trainers who will initially deliver the course, the information for the Conformance Declaration, and documentation on how the Organization warrants conformance.

2.5.4 Assessor Performs Documentation Assessment

The Certification Authority's Assessor will carry out a detailed Assessment of the Accreditation Package, in accordance with Section 2.3, to determine whether the Accreditation Requirements are met.

The accreditation fee covers initial submission and one rework cycle to be submitted within 30 days. If the revised submission is assessed with major issues in meeting the Accreditation Requirements, the Organization will be required to start the process again, including payment of a new accreditation fee. In this case, the Certification Authority will reject the application for accreditation and report the discrepancies with the Accreditation Requirements. The Organization may undertake corrective action and re-apply.

2.5.5 Certification Authority Awards Accreditation

The Certification Authority will notify the Organization in writing of the final Assessment result.

If the result is that accreditation may proceed, the required legal agreements are in place, and the Certification Authority has received full payment of the accreditation fees, the Certification Authority will accredit the Organization's training course. The Certification Authority will also issue a Certificate of Accreditation to the Organization, enter the training course into the Accreditation Register, and notify the Organization that the Accreditation Logo may now be used in connection with the training course, according to the terms defined in the Accreditation Trademark License Agreement.

2.6 Certification Authority Compliance Management

The Assessor will use documented procedures to perform all stages of the Assessment to ensure the repeatability, reproducibility, and objectivity of the process. A representative of the Certification Authority, other than the one(s) who performed the Assessments, will review the Assessment report to ensure that the Assessment process was performed in accordance with the defined procedures.

All materials provided to the Certification Authority or Assessor for the Assessment process performed in conjunction with registration for a new accreditation or an update to an existing one must be archived for six (6) years to provide an auditable trail. The Certification Authority will maintain the archive for all submitted materials.

3. Conformance

3.1 Accreditation Requirements

It is an explicit condition of accreditation that the Organization warrants and represents that the Accredited Training Course conforms to the applicable Accreditation Requirements.

The Accreditation Requirements are a precisely defined and documented set of requirements against which courses may be assessed and accredited, including requirements for conformance to the applicable technical and process requirements as interpreted by The Open Group from time to time, and including coverage of the applicable learning outcomes defined in the Conformance Requirements.

3.2 Versions

From time to time, The Open Group will issue new versions of the Body of Knowledge for a Program. Courses are accredited against a particular version of the Body of Knowledge.

If an update to a Body of Knowledge is released, Organizations are required to update all affected courses to align with the revised materials, and include any new material as required by any updated Accreditation Requirements and Conformance Requirements, within six (6) months of release of the revised documents by The Open Group.

Previous versions of the Accredited Training Course may continue to be offered for six (6) months. Examinations for the previous version will be retired within six (6) months of such update.

3.3 Conformance Declaration

The Conformance Declaration refers to the set of information provided about a course in the web-based accreditation system that may be used in the public Accreditation Register entry for the course once it is accredited. The Conformance Declaration reflects the Organization's public representation of the course. It includes the responsible ATC Manager, the levels of certification covered by the course, and the delivery method(s) and languages(s) supported by the course.

The information for the Conformance Declaration is submitted to the Certification Authority as part of the registration process for accreditation. It is the responsibility of the Organization to ensure that the information supplied is correct and complete. The Certification Authority will generate the Conformance Declaration and validate with the Organization.

After accreditation, Organizations must ensure that the information in the Conformance Declaration of their Accredited Training Course is kept accurate and up-to-date. Changes to the Conformance Declaration of an Accredited Training Course may only be made by the Certification Authority, acting at the request of the Organization, subject to the requirements set out in Section 7.

4. Obligations of Organizations

4.1 Achieving Accreditation

Claims of accreditation may only be made in relation to Accredited Training Courses; that is, courses that meet the Accreditation Requirements and for which the Certification Authority has provided written notice that accreditation has been achieved. Claims of conformance, certification, or accreditation may not be used with courses that have not completed the accreditation process, or that have been withdrawn from the Program.

The Training Course Accreditation Agreement requires the Organization to publicly “warrant and represent” that:

- **The Accredited Training Course meets the applicable Accreditation Requirements**
- **The Organization agrees to the policies expressed in this Accreditation Policy document**

4.2 Maintaining Accreditation

An Organization is required to ensure that their Accredited Training Course continues to conform to the applicable Accreditation Requirements, including all Interpretations that have been granted by the Specification Authority.

The Certification Authority has the right to audit the Organization’s claims of conformance and adherence to the requirements of this Accreditation Policy. The Certification Authority may at any time request Organizations to provide the Certification Authority with any information reasonably related to their Accredited Training Course’s conformance with the applicable Accreditation Requirements. If the Organization fails to provide such information within 45 calendar days of the request, then the Certification Authority may remove the training course from the Accreditation Register, in which case the training course ceases to be an Accredited Training Course and the Organization may no longer make a claim of accreditation in relation to the training course.

In addition to regularly scheduled assessments, the Certification Authority has the right at any time without notice to observe delivery of the Accredited Training Course, review current Accredited Training Course materials, or request information on delivered Accredited Training Courses and course attendees for the purpose of auditing conformance of the Accredited Training Course to the Accreditation Requirements.

The Certification Authority will maintain statistics concerning pass rates for Candidates trained by each Accredited Training Course. Accredited Training Courses with pass rates repeatedly below average will be required to justify their performance and agree an improvement plan with the Certification Authority.

Accredited Training Course customers and attendees who discover a non-conformance in the Accredited Training Course should first report such non-conformance to the Organization. If the Organization does not address the non-conformance within 30 calendar days, the issue may be raised to the Certification Authority, along with justification for why the claimant believes there is a non-conformance. Recourse should always be made through normal communication channels with the Organization before escalation to the Certification Authority.

If an Accredited Training Course is found by any means no longer to meet the Accreditation Requirements, the Certification Authority shall provide written notification to the Organization who shall:

1. Within 30 calendar days provide a plan to the Certification Authority for rectifying the non-conformance and within a further 45 calendar days rectify the non-conformance and satisfy the Certification Authority and/or the claimant of the efficacy of the rectification; or
2. Within 30 calendar days notify the Certification Authority that the Accredited Training Course is indeed conformant and provide evidence to satisfy the Certification Authority and/or the claimant that the Accredited Training Course is conformant; or
3. Within 30 calendar days acknowledge the existence of the non-conformity and indicate an inability to rectify the non-conformance within a further 45-day period, in which case the training course ceases to be an Accredited Training Course; or
4. Within 30 calendar days invoke the appeals process as described in Section 11

If option (4) is selected, the Organization will have 45 calendar days from the completion of the appeals process to implement the decision.

If the Organization fails to take one of the above actions within the times defined above, the accreditation will be revoked and the training course will cease to be an Accredited Training Course.

4.3 Removal of Accreditation

If an Organization fails to satisfactorily address any non-conformances in a timely manner or a training course is not being operated in accordance with this Policy, the Accreditation Requirements, and the legal agreements, the training course will lose its accreditation.

A training course shall cease to be an Accredited Training Course if:

- The Organization requests that the Certification Authority withdraw the Accredited Training Course from the Accreditation Register
- The Organization fails to satisfactorily address identified non-conformances as per Section 2.3 or Section 4.2
- The Organization fails to update their course within six (6) months after an update to the Body of Knowledge
- The Organization fails to meet the re-accreditation requirements or declines to perform re-accreditation
- The Organization fails to adhere to any of the policies defined within this Accreditation Policy document
- The training course ceases to meet the Accreditation Requirements
- The Organization is in breach of the Training Course Accreditation Agreement or the Accreditation Trademark License Agreement

If a training course ceases to be an Accredited Training Course, the Organization may no longer make any claim of accreditation in relation to that course. The Organization, at its own expense, shall remove any existing claim of accreditation from all materials related to the previously accredited training course; for example, websites and promotional materials. The Certification Authority may inspect any materials related to the training course to ensure adequate removal.

Once a training course ceases to be an Accredited Training Course, any future claim of accreditation in relation to that training course will require the training course to be accredited again.

Furthermore, the right to use the Accreditation Logo (see Chapter 5) in conjunction with a training course that is no longer accredited shall be immediately terminated.

5. The Open Group Accreditation Logo

This section describes the basis for using The Open Group Accreditation Logo in accordance with the Accreditation Trademark License Agreement.

5.1 Use of the Accreditation Logo

Once the Certification Authority has notified an Organization that their training course has achieved accreditation, the Organization may use the Accreditation Logo in association with the Accredited Training Course as per the terms specified in the Accreditation Trademark License Agreement and with the applicable tag line as defined in the Program Configuration document.

The Accreditation Logo may only be used on or in relation to Accredited Training Courses. It may not be used in relation to courses that have not completed the accreditation process, or that have been withdrawn from the Program. It may not be used in relation to the Organization in general; only to the specific course or courses that have been accredited.

Organizations with more than one Accredited Training Course may use the Accreditation Logo with the applicable tag line in relation to each of the Accredited Training Courses to which they apply.

Organizations may use the Accreditation Logo in relation to their Accredited Training Course on their business cards, in proposals, in marketing materials, and other materials.

5.2 Licensing the Accreditation Logo

In order to use the Accreditation Logo, the Organization is required to sign an Accreditation Trademark License Agreement. This agreement is the legal contract governing how the Accreditation Logo may be used and defines the rights and obligations of the Organization.

The Accreditation Trademark License Agreement requires the Organization to warrant and represent that their Accredited Training Course meets the applicable Accreditation Requirements as well as agree to the policies expressed in this Accreditation Policy document.

5.3 Removal of the Accreditation Logo

If an Accredited Training Course loses accreditation, any and all rights the Organization has to use the Accreditation Logo on or in relation to that Accredited Training Course cease immediately. The terms for removal of the Accreditation Logo are as described in the Accreditation Trademark License Agreement. Once the rights to the Accreditation Logo have been removed, any future use of the Accreditation Logo in relation to that course requires a new accreditation in advance of such use.

The Organization will be required to sign an acknowledgement confirming that they have stopped offering the course and ceased all use of the Accreditation Logo.

Failure to adhere to the provisions of the Accreditation Trademark License Agreement is a breach of the Accreditation Trademark License Agreement and shall result in its termination.

6. Accreditation Register

6.1 Inclusion in the Accreditation Register

The Accreditation Register is a web-accessible record of all Accredited Training Courses and is maintained by the Certification Authority. The Accreditation Register contains the name of the Organization, the period of time for which the course is accredited, a reference to the version of the Body of Knowledge and the version of the Accreditation Requirements against which the course is accredited, and information from the Conformance Declaration for the course.

Once the Certification Authority is satisfied that the Organization's course meets the applicable Accreditation Requirements and is satisfied that all other requirements for accreditation have been met, the Certification Authority will issue written notice to the Organization that accreditation has been achieved and will, subject to the provisions of Section 6.3, enter the training course in the Accreditation Register.

6.2 Removal from the Accreditation Register

Only Accredited Training Courses in good standing are included in the Accreditation Register; thus, if a training course loses its accreditation and therefore ceases to be an Accredited Training Course, the Certification Authority will remove it from the Accreditation Register.

6.3 Delayed Listing in Accreditation Register

On occasion, an Organization may want to delay listing their accreditation in the public Accreditation Register for a period of time after being awarded accreditation. The Organization may request that the listing be delayed and the accreditation remain confidential for a maximum period of six (6) months from the date that the Certification Authority provides written notification that the training course has achieved accreditation.

During this period, the Organization may not publicly represent that they are accredited, use the Accreditation Logo, or make any representation of conformance to the Accreditation Requirements.

The Organization may request to list the accreditation in the Accreditation Register at any point during this six (6)-month period. In the event that the Organization wishes to keep the accreditation information for a training course confidential permanently, the Organization may request withdrawal and deletion of such information. Such a training course will then no longer be accredited.

The accreditation information will be published in the Accreditation Register upon the earlier of notice by the Organization to list the accreditation or at the end of the six (6)-month period, provided that the Organization has not previously requested withdrawal and deletion of such information.

7. Accreditation Requirements for Modifications to an Accredited Training Course

Accreditation applies to a defined training course – the Accredited Training Course – from a defined training course provider – the ATC Provider. Accredited Training Courses are typically delivered in many different locations, in different languages, by different trainers, and may be delivered in more than one country. Organizations are required to maintain a single point of contact within their Organization who takes responsibility for meeting all of the Organization’s obligations under the Program. This individual is termed the ATC Manager.

If an Organization has more than one course accredited in the Programs, the Organization should endeavor to have a single ATC Manager takes responsibility for all of the Accredited Training Courses operated by the Organization and must at a minimum have a single ATC Manager for all courses related to a Body of Knowledge.

7.1 Change of ATC Manager

A change of ATC Manager is a change of the named individual responsible for the effective operation and delivery of the Accredited Training Course.

To maintain accreditation for the Accredited Training Course, the Organization must notify the Certification Authority of the change in ATC Manager within 30 calendar days of such change occurring.

The new ATC Manager must provide a written commitment to the Certification Authority indicating that the new ATC Manager understands the Accreditation Requirements to which the Accredited Training Course is accredited and agrees to comply with these requirements for the duration of the current accreditation and any subsequent periods of accreditation.

The Certification Authority will then update the information in the Accreditation Register and Conformance Declaration as applicable.

7.2 Change in Training Course Materials

The ATC Manager must notify the Certification Authority of any significant changes to training course materials directly related to the content of the Body of Knowledge for which the course is accredited. Notification must be made within 30 calendar days of such changes to the training course materials. The Certification Authority has the right to review and approve all such changes; such approval will not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

The ATC Provider must provide the modified materials to the Certification Authority, along with a written change log, in order to enable an Assessor to easily see the changes that have been made.

7.3 Change in Trainers

All trainers who deliver the Accredited Training Course must be registered with and approved by the Certification Authority.

The ATC Manager must notify the Certification Authority of all trainers being added to the program and their qualifications. Such notification must be made at least one (1) week before the ATC Provider plans

to deliver a course using the trainer. The Certification Authority must grant approval before these trainers may deliver an Accredited Training Course.

7.4 New Delivery Language or Method

The ATC Manager must notify the Certification Authority of new training course materials or changes to the existing training course materials to support delivery of the Accredited Training Course in a new language or by a new delivery method. Such notification must be made at least four (4) weeks before the first planned use.

The ATC Provider must provide the training course materials and accompanying training course materials checklist to the Certification Authority for review and approval. The new or revised training course materials may be used only after the Certification Authority approves a change in the scope of the Accredited Training Course's accreditation to include the new delivery language or method.

The Certification Authority will then update the information in the Accreditation Register and Conformance Declaration as applicable.

7.5 Change in Organization

The Organization must notify The Open Group of any material changes to the Organization's identity, ownership, or location within 30 days.

The Certification Authority will then update the information in the Accreditation Register and Conformance Declaration as applicable.

7.6 Administrative Changes

If an Organization wishes to make changes to the Conformance Declaration that do not have a material effect on the conformance of the Accredited Training Course, the ATC Manager must notify the Certification Authority within 30 calendar days of such change occurring. The Certification Authority will update the Conformance Declaration to reflect the requested changes.

7.7 Other Changes

Except where specifically stated otherwise in this Accreditation Policy document, any other change to any of the elements upon which an Accredited Training Course's accreditation is based must be communicated to the Certification Authority within 30 calendar days of such change occurring.

If the Certification Authority believes that the change may have a material effect on the conformance of the Accredited Training Course to the Accreditation Requirements, the Accredited Training Course will be subject to the full assessment and accreditation process, or any subset thereof, at the discretion of the Certification Authority.

8. Working with a Third Party

8.1 Promotion of an Accredited Training Course through Partners – Brokers

ATC Providers may partner with third parties defined as Brokers.

The ATC Provider must ensure that its Brokers fit the definition of a Broker as stated in Section 1.9

The ATC Provider is at all times responsible for its Brokers' promotion and marketing of the ATC and must ensure that its Brokers only use the ATC information provided by the ATC Provider.

The ATC Provider is required to identify its Brokers to the Certification Authority.

Brokers are not required to enter into any agreement with the Certification Authority.

8.2 Use of Third-Party Materials

Organizations may license some or all of the material they need to develop a training course from third parties, including current ATC Providers. Use of material from a previously accredited training course does not, of itself, amount to accreditation and such licensees are not permitted to make any statements suggesting any approval or accreditation by the Certification Authority until their course is accredited.

If a course provider seeking accreditation uses an ATC Provider's training course materials, the course provider must include such material in the Accreditation Package and must also provide a letter of authorization and a copy of the licensing agreement from the ATC Provider to verify that the material is used with their permission.

All other parts of the Accreditation Package must be submitted for Assessment as normal.

ATC Providers who license their materials to third parties must advise them that the licensing of training course materials does not entitle a licensee to state that the course is accredited and the ATC Provider must make it clear that their licensee is not permitted to use the Accreditation Logo, claim the course is accredited, or state that they are accredited to deliver the training by virtue of the license to the materials. Accreditation covers the training course materials, trainers, and training organization; the training course materials themselves are not accredited and may not be advertised as such.

The Certification Authority will not become involved in copyright or other disputes between ATC Providers, but will withdraw accreditation if it receives clear evidence that material in an Accredited Training Course breaches another party's copyright. This includes the situation where third-party material continues to be used after the license to use it has lapsed or been withdrawn.

9. Duration and Re-Accreditation

9.1 Duration of Accreditation

Accreditation is valid for a period of time as defined in the applicable legal agreement (the “Accreditation Period”), commencing on the date at which the Certification Authority provides written notice to the Organization that accreditation has been achieved, unless accreditation is subsequently terminated in accordance with Chapter 4 or Chapter 6 of this document.

The last day of each Accreditation Period is referred to as the re-accreditation date and represents the date on which the accreditation will cease to be valid, unless the Organization extends the accreditation in accordance with the procedures defined below.

9.2 Re-Accreditation Process

Prior to the re-accreditation date, the Organization is required to demonstrate that the Accredited Training Course continues to meet all applicable Accreditation Requirements.

Specifically:

- All training course materials associated with the Accredited Training Course continue to meet the applicable Accreditation Requirements
- All trainers that deliver or may deliver the Accredited Training Course are registered with the Certification Authority
- All Interpretations that have been granted since the previous accreditation and any new revisions or updates to the Accreditation Requirements or Conformance Requirements issued more than 90 days prior to the re-accreditation date are reflected in the course
- The Organization is operating the procedures warranting conformance as required by the Accreditation Requirements to ensure that the Accredited Training Course operates as documented

Therefore, re-accreditation requires successful re-Assessment of the Accreditation Package. The Certification Authority will determine the content of the Accreditation Package and level of Assessment required based on what has changed since the previous Assessment.

At or before 90 calendar days prior to the re-accreditation date, the Certification Authority will notify the ATC Manager that re-accreditation is due. The Organization must respond to the Certification Authority within 30 calendar days indicating whether or not the Organization would like to maintain the accreditation. Failure to respond within 30 calendar days will be deemed a withdrawal and the accreditation will expire on the re-accreditation date.

If the Organization wishes to re-accredit the course, the Organization must review and update the Accreditation Package as appropriate to reflect the current state of the Accredited Training Course.

The revised Accreditation Package and any additional information requested by the Certification Authority must be submitted to the Certification Authority at least 45 calendar days prior to the re-accreditation date.

The Certification Authority will perform an Assessment in accordance with the Assessment process defined in Section 2.3.

If no major issues are observed, the Certification Authority will extend the accreditation for another Accreditation Period and inform the Organization. The Certification Authority will update the Accreditation Register and issue an updated Certificate of Accreditation to reflect that the training course has been re-accredited. If minor issues were observed, then the Organization will be required to provide evidence of having cleared the observed issues within 90 calendar days of the re-accreditation date. Failure to do so will result in the accreditation being terminated.

In the event that a major issue is identified during the re-accreditation Assessment, the Organization has up to 30 calendar days after the re-accreditation date to rectify the non-conformity and satisfy the Certification Authority of the efficacy of the rectification. Failure to do so will mean that accreditation will not be extended. To regain accreditation for the course, the course provider will need to make a new application for accreditation.

An Organization has a responsibility to act in good faith to facilitate completion of the re-accreditation process by the re-accreditation date.

9.3 Periodic Conformance Reviews

The Certification Authority will carry out periodic reviews of the Accredited Training Course to ensure adherence to the Accreditation Requirements. These reviews may consist of website checks, course delivery checks, and reviews of the Organization's application of the conformance procedures approved during the accreditation process. The purpose of these reviews is to ensure that after course delivery is underway, the Organization understands and is able to meet its obligations, especially with respect to training course materials and delivery, purchase of vouchers, production of quarterly reports, and maintaining its list of authorized trainers. After a review, the Certification Authority will advise on how to maintain or restore compliance with the Accreditation Requirements.

Within a year of a course achieving accreditation, the Certification Authority will perform a first-year check. The Certification Authority will review the Organization's records related to the course along with its conformance procedures to determine whether the Organization is applying the conformance procedures to its ongoing course management and delivery. The Certification Authority will provide guidance to the Organization to address any issues identified.

The Certification Authority may also carry out an Assessment of the Accredited Training Course delivery by having an Assessor attend some or all of an instance of the Accredited Training Course, either on-site or virtually, depending on the course delivery method. The Certification Authority may, at its discretion, carry out subsequent delivery Assessments at the time of re-accreditation.

All periodic conformance reviews will be performed in accordance with the Assessment process defined in Section 2.3.

If the review outcome is that there were no discrepancies or all discrepancies were satisfactorily addressed within the specified timeframe, accreditation continues.

If the review revealed issues that have not been addressed satisfactorily within the specified timeframe, the Certification Authority will give formal notice to the Organization to address the identified non-conformances, as defined in Section 4.2.

9.4 Withdrawal of Accreditation at Re-Accreditation

During the re-accreditation process, the Certification Authority may revoke the accreditation and remove the Accredited Training Course from the Accreditation Register, if:

- The Organization does not complete the re-accreditation process within 30 calendar days after the re-accreditation date; or
- The Organization fails to complete any action within the timeframe defined in Section 9.2 or 9.3

Such a training course will then no longer be considered an Accredited Training Course.

10. Problem Reporting and Interpretations

10.1 Overview

During the accreditation process, during the preparation phase, or subsequently, an Organization may encounter a problem that inhibits or will inhibit the accreditation or conformance with the Accreditation Requirements. The Organization may file a Problem Report via the Certification Authority's website to obtain resolution to the issue. The Certification Authority is the sole interface with the Organization for problem reporting, though other parties may be involved in determining the resolution.

The types of problems that may be found include:

- Errors or ambiguities in the specifications(s) against which conformance is based, specifically in the Accreditation Requirements, Accreditation Policy, or in other documents or underlying standards referenced therein
- Errors in the certification and/or accreditation system, specifically those related to the registration process, agreements, the Accreditation Package, or the Assessment materials used to assess conformance with the Accreditation Requirements

The Problem Report is used specifically for the types of errors listed above which are inhibiting the accreditation effort. For general questions on the accreditation process, the Assessment process, or other problems not covered above, the Certification Authority can provide assistance on obtaining further information.

10.2 Problem Report Resolution

The Certification Authority is responsible for reviewing and providing a resolution to all Problem Reports. The key element of the review process is a deterministic timeline for a formal resolution to the Problem Report.

The Certification Authority will provide a resolution to the Organization within 25 business days of the Problem Report submission.

In order to resolve Problem Reports for issues related to the Accreditation Requirements or the Accreditation Policy, an opinion from the Specification Authority may be required. These opinions must be provided within ten (10) business days of the Problem Report submission in order for the Certification Authority to provide its response on time.

In most cases, 25 business days is sufficient to provide a final Problem Report resolution. However, in exceptional circumstances, final resolution may take longer. If possible, the Problem Report will be addressed sufficiently within the 25 business days to allow the accreditation process to proceed pending final resolution. The Certification Authority will notify the Organization by the 25th day of the delay and any preliminary resolution, if available.

If the Organization is not satisfied with the final resolution, the Organization may invoke the appeals process defined in Section 11.

The Problem Report resolution process will allow the Organization to remain anonymous, so pre-accreditation activity is kept entirely confidential. This anonymous review process requires that requests

be filtered automatically prior to viewing by anyone other than the Certification Authority. Filtering will remove the sections of the Problem Report specific to identification of the Organization, so these are the only sections that should contain the company name, course identifier, or other confidential information. Please note that if Organization-specific information is included in the sections reserved for the detailed problem descriptions, filtering will not result in an anonymous request.

The process is outlined in Figure 2:

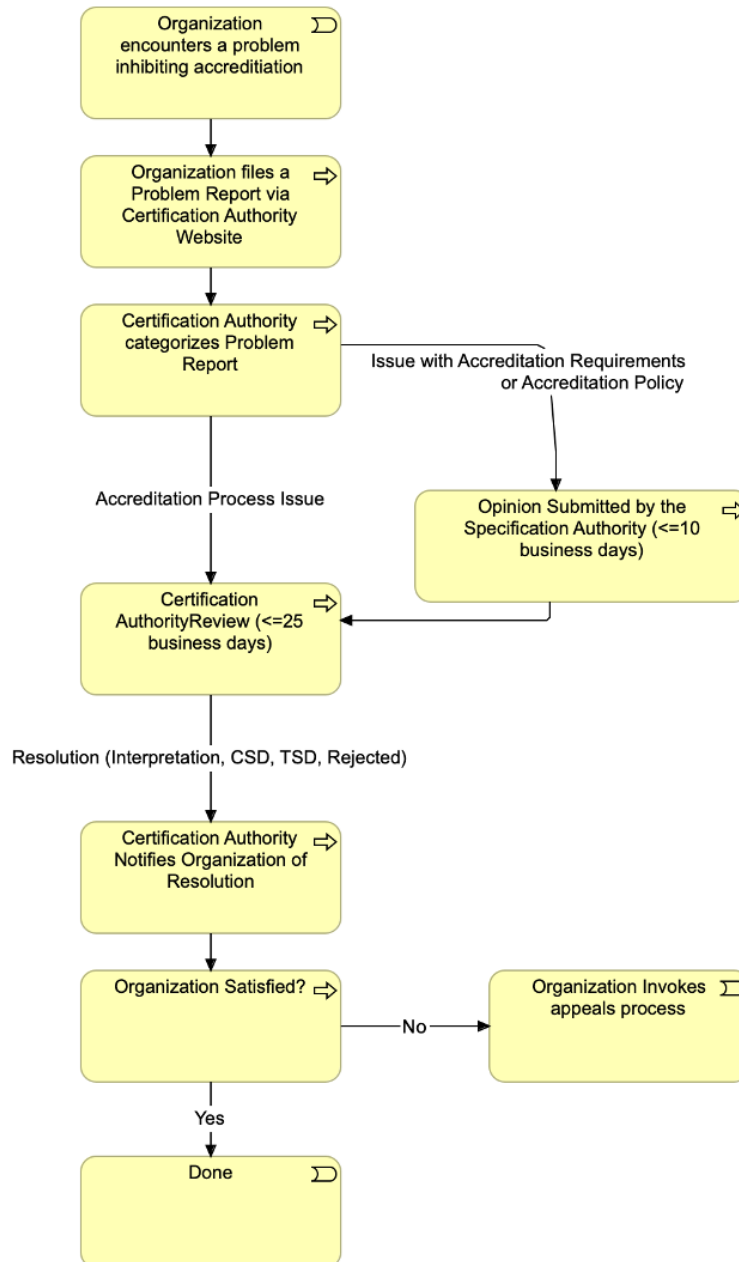


Figure 2: Problem Report Process in ArchiMate Notation

10.3 Resolution of Problem Reports

The possible outcomes for Problem Report resolution are:

- Accepted as an error or ambiguity in the specifications against which conformance is based (an Interpretation)
- Accepted as an error in the certification and/or accreditation system (a Certification System Deficiency (CSD))
- Rejected

The issuance of an Interpretation or CSD will not cause a previously accredited training course to be “un-accredited” at a given revision level of the Accreditation Requirements, but can affect an Accredited Training Course’s continued conformance. Interpretations and CSDs evolve the definition of conformance over time and Accredited Training Courses are always required to conform to the current definition of conformance. At the time of re-accreditation, the Organization will be required to demonstrate that the Accredited Training Course conforms to the then applicable Accreditation Requirements, including all Interpretations that have been granted since the previous accreditation.

10.3.1 Interpretations

An Interpretation elaborates or refines the meaning of a specification, therefore clarifying an error or ambiguity in the specification. Interpretations apply to a specific version of a specification and are permanent against that version. They remain in force until the specification is updated, at which time the elaboration or refined meaning should be incorporated into the updated version of the specification.

Interpretations always apply to a particular version of the Accreditation Requirements, Accreditation Policy, or a specification referenced therein. Therefore, if a Problem Report submitted against one of these documents includes rationale that cites conflict with a previous or subsequent version of the document, the Problem Report will be assessed without considering such rationale. Conflict with another version of the Accreditation Requirements, Accreditation Policy, or referenced specification does not in itself form grounds for granting an Interpretation.

The Specification Authority is responsible for deciding the meaning of conformance to normative referenced specifications or other documents (if any) only within the context of the Accreditation Requirements. Thus, a Problem Report regarding any such underlying or referenced specification that is made in the context of the Accreditation Requirements will be processed as normal. However, any Problem Report that seeks to change the base requirements of underlying normative specifications or other documents over which the Specification Authority has no direct control will be rejected.

The Problem Reporting and Interpretations process may not be used to dispute the outcome of the Assessment and accreditation process. Such issues should instead utilize the appeals process defined in Section 11.

10.4 Problem Report Repository

The Certification Authority will maintain a web-accessible repository of all submitted Problem Reports. This repository will be publicly accessible. The publicly accessible information will contain the technical details – such as the nature of the problem and its current status of resolution – but will not contain sections reserved for organizational details, thus maintaining the confidentiality of the Organization.

An Organization may cite an Interpretation or CSD to resolve discrepancies or to support their application for accreditation in any other way, irrespective of the origin of the Problem Report.

11. Appeals Process

Organizations may appeal decisions made by the Certification Authority. The occasions that may give rise to an appeal include, but are not limited to:

- The Organization disagrees with the resolution of a Problem Report
- The Organization disagrees with the Certification Authority's grounds for denying the award of accreditation
- An Organization disagrees with the grounds of a formal notification of the need to rectify a non-conformance

Appeal requests should be made to the Certification Authority. The Accreditation Guide describes the process for raising an appeal.

There are two levels of appeal:

- Technical Review
- Board Review

At each level of appeal, the Organization has the right to representation at the review meeting to make the technical case, though is not required to do so. The appeals process will be anonymous if the Organization does not wish to be represented at the review meetings. In such case, the Certification Authority will remove details that may identify the Organization or its training course from all information provided for the Technical and/or Board Reviews.

An Organization wishing to dispute a Certification Authority decision may request a Technical Review. A Technical Review requires the Specification Authority to consider the matter and produce a response with a recorded vote, according to the voting rules of The Open Group, within 30 calendar days of the request. The Specification Authority may commission reports from independent experts and may seek input from other committees within The Open Group as it sees fit.

If the Organization is not satisfied with the outcome of the Technical Review, the Organization may request an appeal to The Open Group Governing Board within 14 calendar days of being notified in writing by the Certification Authority of the results of the Technical Review. The Open Group Governing Board may ask for reports or assistance from the relevant working groups and also from independent experts. The Board Review will be completed within 90 calendar days of the Organization's written request for a Board Review. The results of a Board Review are final and cannot be further appealed.

12. Confidentiality and Disclosure

12.1 Confidentiality

All information relating to an Organization and the training course to be accredited will be held confidential during the accreditation process; that is, prior to the award of accreditation. This includes information related to the registration, the Accreditation Package, the Assessment process, Conformance Declarations, and Problem Reports.

Assessment reports and any documents submitted by the Organization will always be confidential. Information regarding the details of the Assessment process shall not be disclosed in any publicly available document or to any third party by the Certification Authority, the Assessor, the Organization, or any party acting on the Organization's behalf.

In addition, the Certification Authority will always hold confidential any information regarding unsuccessful requests for accreditation.

The terms and conditions regarding confidentiality and non-disclosure are contained in the Training Course Accreditation Agreement.

12.2 Disclosure of Accreditation Information

Accreditation information consists of the fact that accreditation was achieved, the description of the Accredited Training Course, and information in the Conformance Declaration. Any claims of accreditation or information related to the accreditation process may only be made public after the Certification Authority has notified the Organization in writing that the training course has successfully completed the accreditation process.

The Certification Authority will make accreditation information publicly available by including it in the Accreditation Register available on the Certification Authority's website.