

EQAR's perspective on targeted reviews

ENQA Training of Agency Reviewers

16 May 2023

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Overview

- Experience so far
- Procedural steps and documents involved
 - Timely substantive change reports from the agencies
 - Tripartite Terms of Reference
 - Defining the scope and focus areas of targeted reviews
- EQAR's decision making on targeted reviews
- Implications and challenges

Experience so far

By May 2023

- 13 agencies applied for a targeted review
 - Terms of Reference confirmed for 11 agencies
 - 4 applications for re-registration approved
- Both for reviewers and EQAR register committee decision making, targeted reviews: not less workload
- Agencies seem to appreciate the enhancement orientation
- Special challenge for reviewers: providing enhancement oriented feedback to the agency while also covering all aspects needed for EQAR's decision making

Procedural steps and documents involved: Timely substantive change reports

Agencies are required to report changes to EQAR in a timely manner:

- Legal form and other organisational changes (ESG 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.5)
- New external QA activities (all ESG Part 2 but different level of intensity: e.g. reviews of joint programmes using the EA vs. Introducing new EQA from scratch)
- Changes in an existing QA activity e.g. change in nomination of experts (ESG 2.4), in the decision making body (ESG 2.2, 2.5, 3.3) changing from an auditing to an accreditation approach (ESG Part 2)
- (Discontinuation of an existing QA activity)

Currently: Agencies often only report with application for targeted review -> Discussion to be had at EQAR

Procedural steps and documents involved: Tripartite Terms of Reference (ToR)

- Agreed between the applying agency, ENQA and EQAR at the start of the review:
 - Confirms agency's eligibility for EQAR registration
 - Confirms agreement about focus areas for the review
 - Confirms coverage of agency's activities by the review
- Confirmation of the ToR only if all substantive changes have been reported

Procedural steps and documents involved: Defining activities under the scope of the ESG

- See Melinda's presentation from Day 1
- Earlier decisions, application by the agency and substantive change reports are taken into consideration to define the list of activities under the scope of the ESG
- For the targeted review:
 - Only new or changed activities are to be reviewed with respect to ESG Part 2
 - „Old“ activities that were reviewed in the last full review and not changed are still listed in the ToR
- Only activities under the scope of the ESG can be included in [DEQAR](#)

Procedural steps and documents involved: Defining the focus areas of targeted reviews

- a) **Standards with a conclusion of “partial compliance”** usually 1 to 4 PC
- b) **Standards 2.1 to 2.7 for new activities or relevant standards for changed activities:** most agencies: focus on the essence
- c) **Other types of substantive changes** e.g. change in governance structure (ESG 3.3) new consultancy activity (ESG 3.1)
- d) **Standard 2.1** from an enhancement-oriented perspective (always)
- e) One further standard as enhancement area (always)
- f) Any **other matters arising** during the review (if the case)

Full vs Targeted review

	Full review	Targeted review
Focus	All ESG Part 2 and Part 3 standards	A) Standards with PC B)/C) Substantive changes since the last review D) ESG 2.1 E) Enhancement area F) Additional issues arising
Panel composition	4 panel members (a least 1 student and 1 academic staff member)	3 panel members (at least 1 student and 1 academic staff member)
Site visit	Live, hybrid, blended, online	Same, but shorter
Timeframe	> 12-14 months	> 10 months
RC decision on ESG	Holistic decision C/NC/PC judgment for all standards	Holistic decision C/NC/PC for issues in focus (A-F) and C for “inherited”/kept for other standards

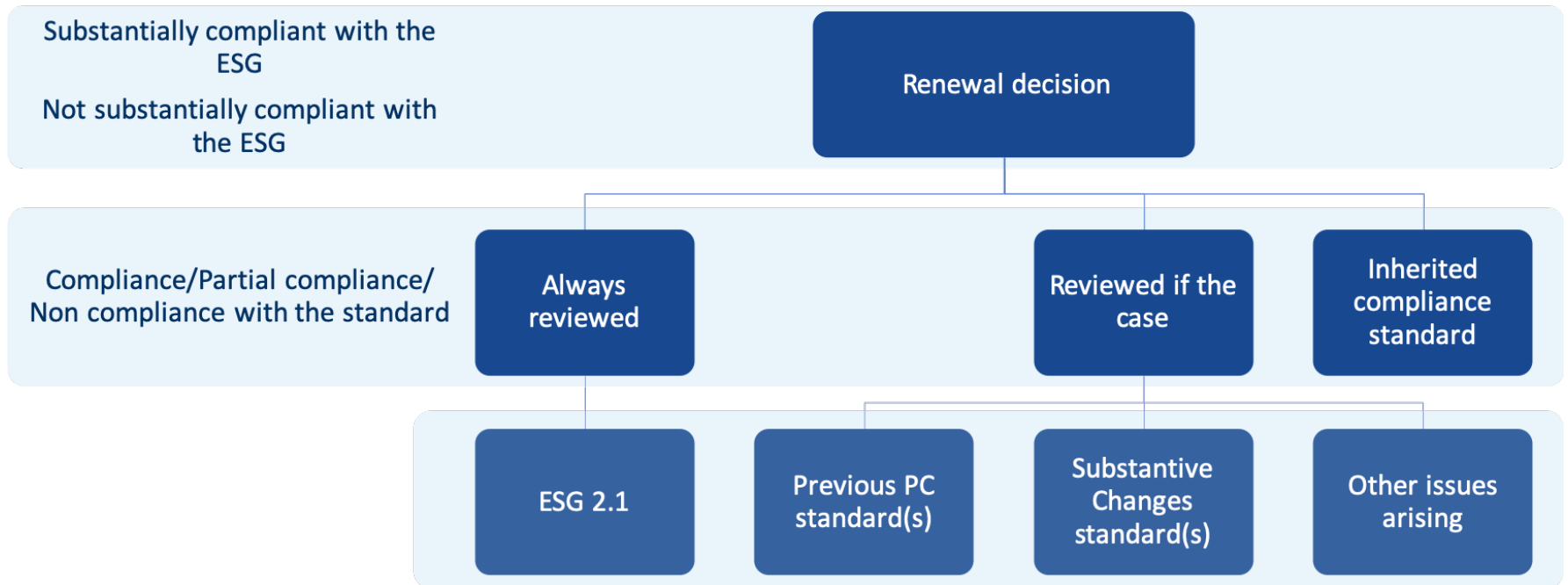
EQAR's decision making

Full reviews



EQAR's decision making

Targeted review



Implications and challenges

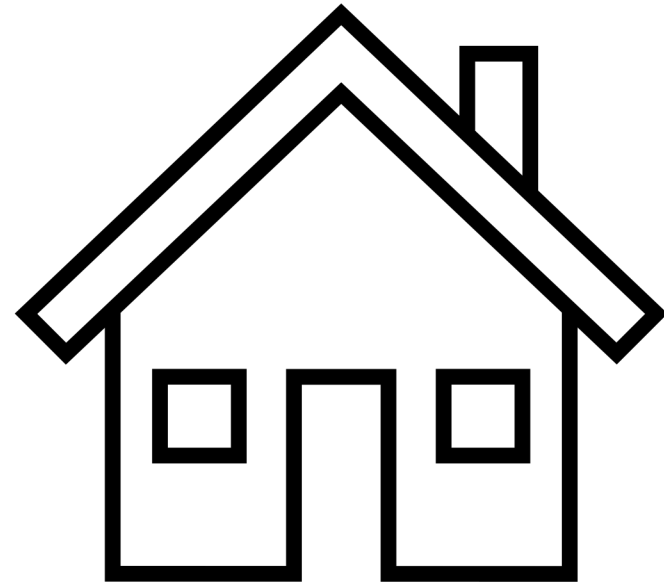
- More and more complicated paperwork to prepare than for full review, to consider:
 - Last full review report
 - Last approval decision by EQAR
 - Substantive change reports of the registration period
 - Terms of reference to know in detail about the scope of the review

The Register Committee relies on your report addressing all issues raised in those documents to be able to make a substantiated decision and treat agencies fair and equally

Implications and challenges



By [emetzner130](#) on [Pixabay](#)



Reviewing the agency, you are our eyes and ears – make sure to paint a picture as detailed and colorful as possible in the report!

Implications and challenges

To avoid clarification questions:

- Address all the focus areas of the review
 - Previous partial compliances
 - Anything affected by changes, including new activities
 - ESG 2.1
 - Watch out for “any matters arising”
 - Not only focus on the enhancement area
- When presenting findings on changed or new activities of the agency in the report, be precise in your language:

“The agency involved all stakeholders in the design of their methodologies through questionnaires, focus groups and a consultation process”

“The agency involved all stakeholders in the design of the methodology for the new institutional accreditation through questionnaires, focus groups and a consultation process”

Have a great experience reviewing agencies!

Questions? Comments?

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