



الوكالة الوطنية للأمن السيبراني
National Cyber Security Agency

National Information Security Compliance Framework- Accreditation Symbols- Usage Policy

[NCSA-NISC-UASP-V 1.1]

Use of Accreditation Symbols Policy

National Governance and Assurance Affaires
National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA)

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الوكالة الوطنية للأمن السيبراني
National Cyber Security Agency

LEGAL MANDATE(S)

Based on Emiri Decree No 1 of year 2021, National Cyber Security Agency - Governance and Cyber Assurance Affairs is the entity responsible for issuing certificates for Technology and Information Security service providers and certificates of compliance with National Information Security standards and policies.





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1. Introduction

The National Information Security Compliance Framework (NISCF) Accreditation Program is a cornerstone in improving cyberspace by securing the information security services supply chain and enhancing the quality of cybersecurity services in the State of Qatar.

The NISCF symbols are provided by NCSA as formal recognition that organizations meet certain standards of quality, performance, technical expertise, and competence.

Accredited organizations are entitled to use the NISCF accreditation symbols and/or appropriate words in its reports, and publicity material, in accordance with the rules as prescribed in this document. Accredited Service Providers may use the relevant Accreditation Symbols respectively to identify themselves as having demonstrated the professional experience, requisite knowledge or appropriate compliance with the State of Qatar's national standards and frameworks concerning information security.

NCSA reserves all right to randomly audit all marketing and promotion materials bearing the NISCF accreditation symbol and may periodically send out requests for samples.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to set out the conditions for the use of Accreditation Symbols. The conditions contained in this document shall be met by all NCSA accredited organizations using the NISCF symbols and Service Providers seeking accreditation.

This document considers the NISCF requirements of accreditation, as well as applicable mandatory documents.

3. Scope

This policy covers the rules and conditions applicable for the use of the National Information Security Compliance Framework (NISCF) accreditation symbols.

The policy is applicable to all NCSA accredited organizations, applicants, and other stakeholders.



4. Terms and Definitions

"Accreditation":	attestation by NCSA of an organization is competency to perform specific services, activities or tasks in a consistent, reliable and precise manner.
"Accredited Service Provider":	Service Provider 's that was subject to a formal procedure by which NCSA assessed and verified Compliance against a specific set of NISCF requirements for a defined scope that led to a written attestation (Certificate of Accreditation) by NCSA.
"Accreditation symbol":	the symbol(s) issued by NCSA for use by accredited Service Providers to indicate its accredited status
"Suspended":	Service Provider that failed to maintain compliance with the NISCF Accreditation conditions. Accreditation has been invalidated until causes for suspension are resolved as requested by NCSA and following a formal assessment procedure verifying the actual implementation of corrective actions.
"Withdrawn":	service Provider which their accreditation has been revoked leading to loss off the status as Accredited Service Provider by NCSA for the scope of the Accreditation.



5. General Format and Display of NISCF Accreditation Symbols

- 5.1. The National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA) Logo or any other associated Logo are for the exclusive use of the respective entity and prohibited from being used by any Accredited Service Provider or organization (Example of the NISCF Accreditation Symbol are referred in [Appendix: 2](#)).
- 5.2. The NISCF accreditation symbols, or any elements thereof, shall not be included in the trade or business name, domain name, product or service name, logos, slogan, or other trademarks.
- 5.3. The accreditation symbol shall be displayed only in the appropriate format, proportion, color, and wording, as detailed in ([Appendix: 1](#)) of this document.
- 5.4. Service Provider's accredited for more than one scheme, e.g., (Audit and Advisory), shall display the different symbols together or may display only the appropriate NISCF accreditation symbol to the audience targeted, accompanied by one or more of the appropriate accreditation numbers.
- 5.5. Accredited Service Providers shall correct any deficiencies in the use of the NISCF accreditation symbols. Failure to correct such deficiencies or to cease publication or distribution could result in the withdrawal of the right to use the NISCF accreditation symbol.

6. Use of the Accreditation Symbol or other claims of accreditation

- 6.1. An accredited Service Provider shall not display the NISCF accreditation symbols in any manner that suggests that the NCSA is a part of their company. The use of the NISCF accreditation symbols shall indicate that the accredited Service Provider is independent of the NCSA.
- 6.2. The NISCF accreditation symbol or reference to accreditation may only be used once the NCSA has awarded accreditation to the Service Provider.



- 6.3. An accredited Service Provider shall use the NISCF accreditation symbol only under the name of the registered trade name of the legal entity to which it holds accreditation.
- 6.4. The NISCF accreditation symbol or reference to accreditation shall not be: used to imply or create the impression that NCSA approves or certifies their product, process, service, management system or person; or used in a way that may imply that NCSA accepts responsibility for the accuracy of result of works performed, or any opinions.
- 6.5. An accredited Service Provider is entitled to display the relevant NISCF accreditation symbol or refer to NISCF accreditation in its publicity or advertising material pertinent to the accredited scope.
- 6.6. Accredited Service Provider must ensure that NISCF accreditation is not implied or construed for non-accredited scopes.
- 6.7. Permissible examples of publicity and advertising materials include:
 - i) Letterheads and other corporate stationery, on condition that such stationery is not used for work proposals or quotes, if none of the work is within the scope of accreditation;
 - ii) marketing and promotional materials (brochures, pop-up banners, posters, newsletters, presentations, websites).
- 6.8. The NISCF accreditation symbol or reference to accreditation shall only be displayed on quotations or proposals that cover the Accredited services provider's scope of accreditation.
- 6.9. It is the responsibility of every accredited Service Provider to minimize the risk of a client/reader being misled as to the extent and limitations of its NISCF accreditation, whether it be in relation to quotations for work, work being undertaken, results being reported, the use of sub-contractors or in any publicity material (e.g. websites and brochures) used for advertising activities or services.
- 6.10. The use of the NISCF accreditation symbol or reference to NISCF accreditation on items other than material, as mentioned in 6.7, is not



permissible and any diversions shall be subject to approval by NCSA. Permission may be sought by emailing an example of the intended use of the NISCF accreditation symbol to the assurance@ncsa.gov.qa.

- 6.11. An accredited Service Provider shall not use the Accreditation Symbol on business cards in order to avoid any possible confusion with the certified individuals (Certified Auditors).
- 6.12. Use of the NISCF accreditation symbols shall be discontinued immediately if a Service Provider fails to comply or continue to meet NISCF accreditation requirements.
- 6.13. An accredited Service Provider shall, upon suspension of NISCF Accreditation, immediately cease to issue any other materials (such as advertising or publicity materials.) displaying the NISCF Accreditation Symbol or containing references to NISCF accreditation during the suspension period.
- 6.14. Accredited Service Provider shall immediately cease the distribution of all items on which the NISCF accreditation symbol upon withdrawal of NISCF accreditation.
- 6.15. An accredited Service Provider shall, upon termination of NISCF accreditation, immediately cease distribution of all items on which the NISCF accreditation symbol, or any reference to NISCF accreditation.

7. Misuse of the NISCF Accreditation Symbol or Reference to Accreditation

- 7.1. In the event of misuse of the Accreditation Symbols, NCSA reserves the right to issue violations and sanctions depending on the gravity of the violation and consistent with appreciate Law in the state of Qatar.
- 7.2. The following instances are a list of violation other not exhaustive, constitute an offense and are subject to sanctions detail in [Section 8](#):
 - i) The misuse of the NISCF accreditation symbol by accredited Service Provider, where accreditation is claimed for areas not accredited.



- ii) The use of the NISCF accreditation symbol or reference to accreditation during suspension or after the withdrawal of accreditation.
- iii) Use of the NISCF accreditation symbol by organizations not accredited by NCSA.

8. Sanctions

- 8.1. NCSA shall take appropriate actions to deal with incorrect or misuse of the NISCF accreditation symbols or misleading or unauthorized claims to accreditation. These actions may include:
- i) request for corrective actions.
 - ii) withdrawal of certificates/symbols issued by the NCSA.
 - iii) the suspension and withdrawal of accreditation status; and if necessary
 - iv) legal actions

9. Symbols Artwork

Electronic artwork files for the NISCF Symbols are available on request from the NCSA. The Appendix 1 - 2: provides the layout and color details of the Symbols.

The following contact information can be used to obtain the NISCF Accreditation symbols and clarification or permission to use the NISCF Symbols, including Symbol Artwork files:

Contact	Information
Email	assurance@ncsa.gov.qa
Telephone	+974 2362220
Address	Governance and Assurance Affairs, National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA), P.O. Box 24100, Wadi Al Sail Street, Doha, Qatar

Table 1: NCSA Contract Information



Appendix 1:

Colour Specification

On all full-color communications materials, NISCF symbols should be reproduced in the following NISCF symbol colors or **reversed out in white**.

Pantone and **CMYK** for print, and **RGB** or **HEX** for screen display or web

Al Ad'aam	
PANTONE 1955 C	
RGB	138 21 56
HEX/HTML	8A1538
CMYK	0 100 43 43

Table 2: Color Specification

General Rules and Guidance:

- NISCF Symbols artwork shall not be edited in any way other than to increase or decrease in size (in alignment with the guidance provided within this document).
- The NISCF Symbols shall not be translated or otherwise localized into any other language. NCSA shall provide any localized versions of the Symbol.

Symbols Clear Spacing

It is important to keep the symbol area clear of any distracting elements.

- Allow at least **4 mm of clear space** around the NISCF Symbols.

Symbol Minimum Sizing

When reproduced, for both digital and printed media, symbols should not be produced in size any smaller than **20mm** and Minimum print & Digital size: **21mm H**



Appendix 2:

Example of the NISCF Accreditation Symbol

The following "NISCF Accredited" Symbols are to be used by Accredited Service Provider in accordance to their granted accreditation scopes:

Scheme	Scope	Symbols
Advisory Accreditation	This Accreditation Certificate is for Service Providers who provide information security consultancy and implementation to the Public and Private Sector.	
Audit Accreditation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SSQA Audit• NIA Audit	<p>This Accreditation Certificate is for Service Providers who provide audit services related to State of Qatar's information security standards.</p> <p>Accreditation is mandatory to all Service Providers seeking to deliver their services in NISCF's Accreditation audit engagements.</p>	

Table 3: NISCF Accreditation Symbols



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