



Certification and professional accreditation in the meteorological service providers

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For a private meteorological service provider several issues concerning the acknowledgment of certifications or professional accreditations through certain schemes may be claimed. Particularly, a common framework may be established with regards to:

1. Technical and operational competence and suitability;
2. Systems and processes for safety, quality management and business continuity;
3. Reporting Systems;
4. Quality of services;
5. Organisational structure;
6. Human resources, including adequate staffing plans;
7. Data management and security.

In our organisation, Centro Epson Meteo (CEM), with our GAWS (Global Aviation Weather Services) division the above requirements are covered by our ANSP-MET certification. However, for any provider of meteorological services, we think that we can refer also to other existing, internationally recognized, certifications: ISO 9001 (2015), 22301 (2012, business continuity) and 27001 (2013, information security management). Even if these certifications are not obligatory, the implementation of related standards in the meteorological service providers (also not only in the private sectors), will assure strong guaranties to the customers in terms of quality, security and continuity of the provided services and, at the same time, it will be a tool to save and improve the business. Of course, other accreditation schemes may be considered; however, these should have an international acknowledgement. At CEM we are moving our old ISO 9001 towards the 2015 implementation, and started a process toward to the certifications related to business continuity and data security, in order to give the maximum quality, reliability and confidence to our customers, and to be distinguished from a sort of jungle of “pseudo-providers” of services in meteorology. Furthermore, the recently introduction of the meteorologist certification in Italy, provided by an international and independent organisation, adds an important milestone in terms of technical competence, staffing and, again, quality of the services, even if also this certification is not obligatory.