



ISEAL Code of Good Practice: approach to compliance and the transition period

September 2022

Introduction

The revision and integration of the ISEAL Codes of Good Practice into one Code of Good Practice enables a holistic view on system credibility, which provides an opportunity to improve the value of Code Compliant status for ISEAL Code Compliant organisations and their stakeholders.

This document clarifies the proposed approach to compliance with the revised Code to support ISEAL's stakeholders to provide informed feedback on the Code requirements through the consultation process.

What will remain unchanged

- Claims of Code compliance will still only be allowed when the scheme has undergone independent evaluation against the full scope of the Code.
- We will maintain a time limit for completing a full scope evaluation.
- We will continue to establish compliance criteria that allow for yes/no determinations of compliance by independent evaluators.
- We will maintain or improve the current levels of transparency regarding evaluation results and the timing of upcoming evaluations.

Transitioning members and schemes in the process of becoming ISEAL Code Compliant

- Existing ISEAL Code Compliant members will retain their status and will start to be assessed against the new requirements when the revised Code becomes effective, which will be 12 months from publication.
- We will work with ISEAL Community Members in the process of becoming ISEAL Code Compliant (i.e., those organisations who might have completed independent evaluations to only one or two of the current Codes by the time the new Code comes into effect) to identify what requirements remain to be evaluated to attain Code Compliant status, and we will establish a sequence for these evaluations that supports the member's improvement goals.

The intended evaluation frequency

During the period of publication and the Code coming into effect, we will work with applicants and members to understand their strategic priorities and identify the optimal improvement journey for each system. We will use this information to design a series of evaluations with different scopes. Members may then select a combination of these evaluations, that when combined will cover the full scope of the Code.

- Member schemes that have already successfully undergone independent evaluations to the full scope of the Code (i.e., are already ISEAL Code Compliant), will be required to participate annually in evaluations and it is anticipated they will be evaluated against the full scope of the Code within 4 years.

- ISEAL Community Members working towards becoming ISEAL Code Compliant will be required to successfully complete a full scope evaluation within 4 years of applying to become ISEAL Code Compliant.

Evaluation processes

We will complement the current approach of evaluating processes and procedures by introducing additional evaluation techniques to support a greater focus on the desired outcomes of the Code. Examples of additional techniques may include:

- conducting scheme staff or stakeholder interviews
- reviewing sample documents to understand how effectively processes and procedures have been implemented