

## Industry Credentials Initiative

### Perceived Risk: Impact on Accreditation

Some certification bodies have expressed concern that participating in the Industry Credentials Initiative will impact their accreditation status. However, after further research, it was determined that it is possible for certification bodies to participate in the Industry Credentials Initiative and still maintain their accreditation.

#### *Certifications accredited by ANSI under ISO/IEC 17024:2012 Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons*

Section 7.3 of ISO/IEC 17024:2012 on confidentiality requires certification bodies to have documented policies and procedures for maintaining and releasing information and to keep confidential all information obtained during the certification process. However, individuals may provide written consent for release of information to a third party.

#### *Certifications accredited under the National Commission for Certifying Agencies Standards for the Accreditation of Certification Programs*

Standard 10, which covers confidentiality, states that the certification program must have policies and procedures to maintain the applicant, candidate, and certificants' privacy while protecting confidential information. Similar to ISO/IEC 17024, the individual can provide written consent to release their information to a third party.

#### Solution

Certification bodies can add opt-in/opt-out language to their privacy policies and on their website to allow the certification body to share administration data about individual certification holders with the National Student Clearinghouse. Below are two examples of language that has been used by certification bodies on their website and in policy documents:

- Sharing information for research purposes
- Personal information may be shared for research purposes, such as with third parties under written agreement with [insert name of certification body]

#### Contact

If you would like more information about the Industry Credentials Initiative, please contact Vanessa Brown deputy chief data officer, National Student Clearinghouse, [vbrown@studentclearinghouse.org](mailto:vbrown@studentclearinghouse.org) or Karen Elzey, associate executive director, Workcred, [kelzey@workcred.org](mailto:kelzey@workcred.org).