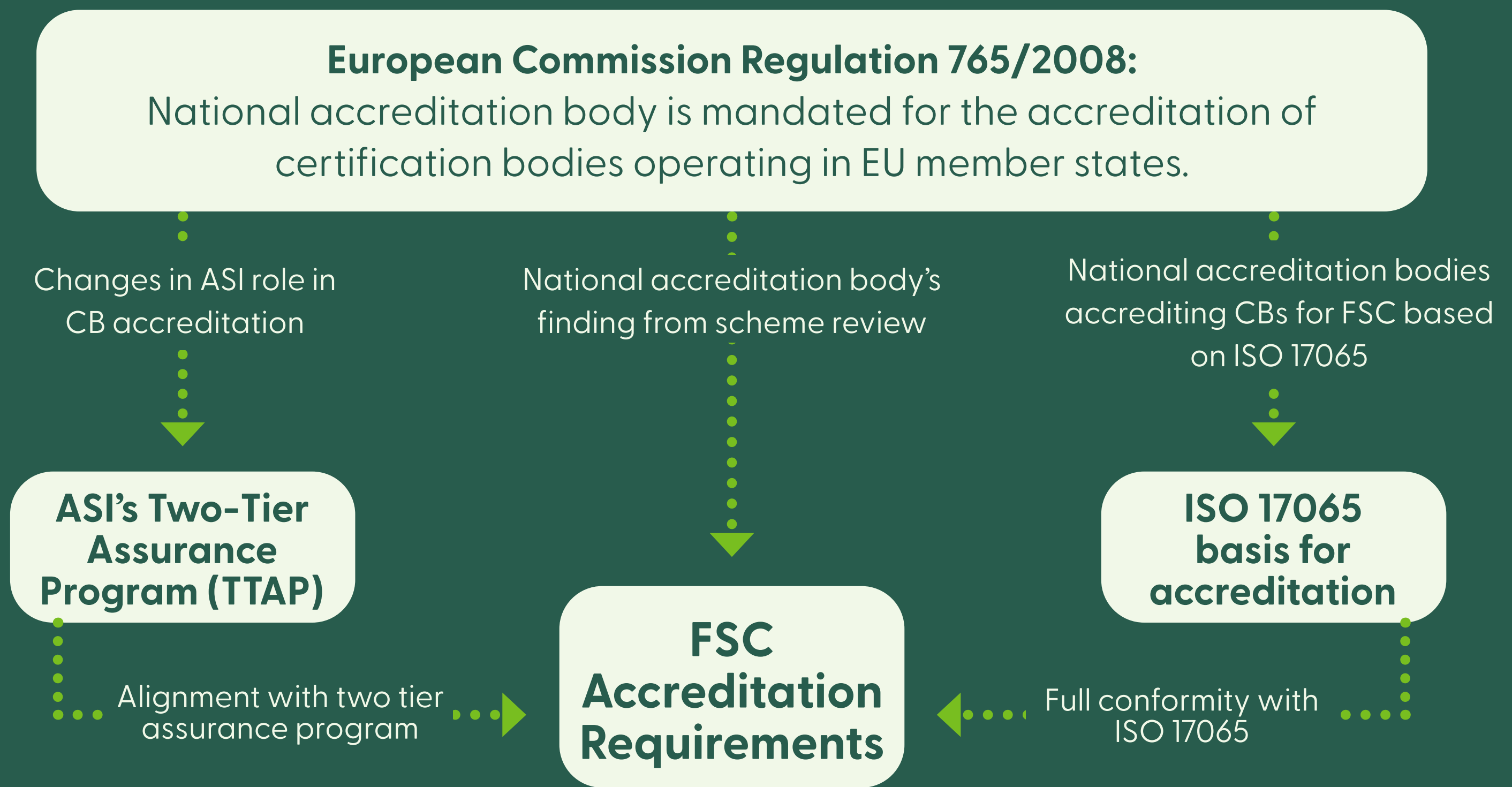


# FSC'S GENERAL ACCREDITATION STANDARD IS UNDER REVISION, THIS IS WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

FSC is revising the general accreditation standard [FSC-STD-20-001 V4-0 General Requirements for FSC Accredited Certification Bodies](#). The standard ensures that FSC certifications are managed in a competent, consistent, impartial, transparent, rigorous, reliable and credible manner. The standard will be revised together with two related procedures [FSC-PRO-20-003 Transfer of FSC Certificates and License Agreements](#) and [FSC-PRO-20-004 General Requirements for FSC Training Programme](#). Please access the process page [here](#) to learn more about this joint revision.

## FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES TRIGGERED BY EC REGULATION



## STARTING POINT

### European Commission regulation has triggered the revision process

[EC regulation 765/2008](#) mandates European Union (EU) member states to establish a single national accreditation body per country in the EU. As per the regulation, the national accreditation body is mandated to accredit certification bodies operating in EU member states. [Deutsche Akkreditierungsstelle](#) (DAkkS), is the national accreditation body for Germany.

### What it means for this revision

As a result of the new EC regulation, DAkkS is also the national accreditation body for FSC and responsible for reviewing and approving all FSC accreditation requirements outlined in [FSC-STD-20-001](#). Currently our general accreditation standard along with the FSC normative framework is being reviewed by DAkkS. FSC's accreditation standard will be revised to accommodate DAkkS observations and non-conformities (if any).

## FSC ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS REVISION

### ISO 17065 as a basis for certification bodies requirements

FSC is a scheme that offers product certification and falls under the scope of ISO 17065. National accreditation bodies in the EU (e.g. [DAkkS](#) in Germany, [ACCREDIA](#) in Italy) are already auditing FSC certification bodies against the requirements of ISO 17065. The current version of FSC-STD-20-001 is a mix of product certification schemes ([ISO 17065](#)), management system schemes ([ISO 17021](#)) and other ISO requirements ([ISO 17024](#)). The standard also contains the set of FSC-specific requirements.

### What it means for this revision

FSC is now classified as a product certification scheme (ISO 17065) rather than as management system certification scheme. ISO 17065 will serve the basis for all certification bodies so all FSC specific requirements will be aligned with ISO 17065. An alignment with ISO 17065 requires any non-conformity to be closed before granting certification whereas in the current rules FSC allows to grant the certification with minor nonconformities.

### Role of ASI is changing in the EU

FSC's accreditation and assurance body Assurance Services International (ASI) is responsible for the accreditation of FSC certification bodies. However, as this role has been taken up by national accreditation bodies in the EU, ASI has introduced a Two-Tier Assurance Program (TTAP). Tier One consists of accreditation of the FSC certification body by the national accreditation body (where necessary) in agreement with ASI as per ([ISO 17065](#)). Tier Two includes complementary and mandatory ASI assurance services such as FSC-specific assurance assessments.

ASI TTAP also applies to certification bodies based outside of the EU, where Tier One consists of accreditation of the certification body by ASI North America and complementary and mandatory ASI assurance services by ASI Bonn.

### What it means for this revision

Alignment of ASI TTAP and the FSC general accreditation standard is required to ensure non-discriminatory and compliant accreditation system for all certification bodies. This may include but is not limited to: introducing geographical scope of accreditation, clarifying requirements in case of accreditation scope is reduced, suspended or withdrawn etc.

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