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To:	ENERGY STAR Homes
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Are there any drawbacks to expanding the eligibility criteria for recognition as a Verification Oversight Organization to include ISO/IEC 17065 accredited organizations, such as unreasonable barriers to entry related to cost of accreditation?

This is a reasonable and prudent question to ask. This is an international standard and there are literally 1000s of companies/organizations and operating units that have learned to comply. From that perspective, it does not seem like too much of a barrier and it would not be unreasonable. It does cost money. But, it also cost money to develop oversight systems, training and to cover the program on a national basis. In all these examples, anyone anticipating being a VOO would have to have a reasonable capital structure, an intelligent business plan and be able to approach the market with viable business options making their VOO attractive in a competitive market. The ISO 17065 would only be a small part of the overall investment and should not considered a significant barrier.

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