PASC

PAN-AFRICAN STANDARDS COUNCIL

SCHEME / INSTITUTIONAL EDITION

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Recognition, competence and accreditation rules

Conformant · Certified · Accredited · Clear qualifying thresholds

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pasc.institute

Defined requirements
Auditable evidence
Controlled editions

1. Recognition classes

PASC publishes three distinct recognition classes. Each record SHALL identify its class, exact standard or scheme, assessed object, scope, validity, authorized issuer, reference and current status.

Recognition	Object and meaning	Evidence requirement	Public claim
Conformant	A declared product, service, research output or organizational implementation meets the applicable requirements within a specified scope.	Clause-by-clause results, defined scope, supporting tests and evidence.	Conforms to the named standard and edition within the stated scope.
Certified	A person has met the professional entry requirements and passed the designated certification examination at a PASC-accredited examination partner.	Identity, verified prior competence, practical work, exam result and approved issuing record.	Holds the named professional qualification; competencies are defined by the certificate scheme.
Accredited	An organization demonstrates sustained, effective deployment of the applicable standard across the business lines, services, processes, training and implementation capabilities included in its declared accreditation scope.	ISO-level eligibility, full applicable PASC implementation, on-site or remotely witnessed operations, sampled delivery, qualified personnel and independent review.	Accredited to deliver or operate the specified services within its published scope.

1.1 A conformant product is not an accredited service provider. A certified individual does not confer accreditation on an employer. A certified individual may work for an accredited or non-accredited organization; the issuer and scope determine the public statement.

1.2 A technical certificate issued by an accredited examination partner is an individual competence credential, not an institutional ISO certificate or a PASC accreditation of the employing organization.

1.3 A conformant organizational implementation may be independently assessed or self-declared under the relevant standard. The registry SHALL identify the assessment basis. OSPCRM v1.0 clause 11 remains the primary normative source for its organizational and product/service conformance claims.

2. Institutional eligibility: entry gate for OSPCRM assessment

QUAL.EL.01 Before a substantive PASC institutional assessment begins, the applicant SHALL demonstrate **implemented and effective ISO-level compliance** for the actual declared operating scope. Eligibility is assessed on operational evidence, regardless of possession of an ISO certificate.

QUAL.EL.02 The baseline SHALL cover management accountability, context and asset inventory, risk management, security operations, personnel competence, identity and access, vulnerability handling, incident response, suppliers, change control, business continuity, data protection, measurement and continual improvement, as applicable. The applicant SHALL map baseline controls to appropriate ISO/IEC standards and applicable legal obligations.

QUAL.EL.03 The entry gate requires: (a) 100% of baseline mandatory controls mapped to accountable owners; (b) evidence for 100% of applicable mandatory controls; (c) operating samples spanning at least one full risk/operational review cycle; (d) zero unresolved critical control failures; and (e) documented ownership and response for material nonconformities. A certificate by itself is insufficient.

QUAL.EL.04 Once baseline eligibility is established, the PASC assessment begins as a distinct audit of OSPCRM-specific methodology, controls, accuracy, practical delivery, reporting, and relevant AI/quantum directives. Baseline eligibility SHALL NOT be recorded as PASC accreditation.

3. Conformant: scope and evidence threshold

QUAL.CO.01 A conformity statement SHALL identify whether the subject is an organizational implementation, product, service, research artefact or operating process; the standard edition and exact tested boundaries SHALL be public.

QUAL.CO.02 All applicable mandatory SHALL requirements must be satisfied with verifiable evidence. Missing evidence, failed mandatory tests or unresolved critical findings prevent the conformant designation.

QUAL.CO.03 OSPCRM organizational conformity additionally requires all mandatory elements in OSPCRM clause 11.1, including regular FNR/P0 precision calculation, operational integration and the sovereign risk report. Product/service compatibility uses OSPCRM clause 11.2 and SHALL be recorded distinctly from organizational conformance.

QUAL.CO.04 A self-declared implementation SHALL state **Self-declared conformity**, while an independently examined implementation SHALL state **Independently assessed conformity**. Neither is a professional certification or a provider accreditation.

4. Certified: professional admission requirements

QUAL.CE.01 Admission to the OSPCRM penetration-testing certification route requires both a security baseline and demonstrated authorized testing capability. Each route shall be verified before the practical examination.

Entry gate	Accepted evidence	Equivalence examination
Cybersecurity foundations	Current CompTIA Security+ or comparable knowledge and skills from an independently verifiable credential, portfolio or employer-verified experience.	Closed-book baseline test, minimum **85%**, across networking, operating systems, IAM, cryptography, threat analysis, logging, incident response and legal/ethical practice.

Entry gate	Accepted evidence	Equivalence examination
Ethical-hacking and exploitation practice	A recognized ethical-hacking qualification supported by practical work, such as CEH Practical, eJPT, PNPT, OSCP or GPEN, or an equivalent verifiable portfolio.	Supervised authorization-first lab with exploitation, enumeration, privilege boundaries, reporting, containment and cleanup; **all safety gates passed**, minimum **85%** on technical rubric.
Operational authority and conduct	Identity check, authorized-testing agreement, confidentiality and rules-of-engagement acknowledgment.	**100%** adherence to safety and scope controls; any unauthorized action fails the gate.

An introductory, knowledge-only ethical-hacking certificate may support the application but does not replace the practical evidence gate.

QUAL.CE.02 Certification examinations SHALL be administered and recorded through a PASC-accredited examination partner. The examiner SHALL not be the candidate's sole trainer. Identical training and examination datasets are prohibited.

5. Certified: OSPCRM advanced pentest assessment

The OSPCRM-specific evaluation SHALL test the following competencies in active, authorized and complex environments:

1. Establish a target model: scope, mission-critical functions, assets, identity, data boundaries, dependencies, attack paths and sovereignty factors.
2. Conduct evidence-based attack-surface discovery across cloud, identity, APIs, applications, networks, operational controls and software supply chains.
3. Execute controlled exploitation and pivoting; document blast radius and preserve safety, authorization and recovery.
4. Integrate threat intelligence, incidents, exposures and compensating controls into an explainable predictive risk model.
5. Demonstrate calibrated prioritization, including false-negative rate (FNR), P0 precision, ranking stability, uncertainty and sensitivity to missing context.
6. Test adversarial cases: misleading vulnerability scores, incomplete asset inventories, hidden dependencies, stale threat signals, privilege escalation, compromised suppliers and drift.
7. Design and verify control improvements, evidence of closure and a predictive monitoring process.
8. Produce a technically reproducible report with actionable remediation, retained evidence, limitations and a defensible risk decision.

QUAL.CE.03 Minimum final examination thresholds: written and methodological score **≥85%**; scored practical evidence and scenario execution **≥85%**; predictive model and calibration section **≥85%**; each critical competence area **≥80%**; completion of **100% of mandatory scenario evidence**; and zero critical safety, authorization or evidence-integrity breaches.

QUAL.CE.04 Predictive-model examination SHALL use independently held-out cases, not cases used for training or demonstration. The candidate SHALL report the FNR, P0 precision, confusion matrix, model uncertainty, assumptions and response under adversarial perturbation. For the controlled examination dataset, the target is **FNR ≤10%** and **P0 precision ≥90%**, with scores evaluated against the published examination rubric and audited case labels. Failure on a target requires remediation and a new calibrated test, not a hidden score adjustment.

QUAL.CE.05 The practical examination SHALL include at least **four distinct multi-stage scenario families**, including one identity/cloud or API path, one complex infrastructure path, one attacker adaptation/supply-chain path and one predictive reprioritization exercise. Each family SHALL contain multiple independent observations and at least one unexpected condition.

QUAL.CE.06 Reports SHALL include evidence-to-claim traceability and a remediation plan with owners, validation tests and measurable risk reduction. Unsupported, exaggerated or fabricated results fail the corresponding integrity control.

6. Accredited: organizational operational capability

QUAL.AC.01 Accreditation requires: completed ISO-level prequalification under section 2; full implementation of every applicable PASC SHALL within the declared scope; and independent demonstration that the organization can repeatedly provide the services it claims.

QUAL.AC.02 Sampling SHALL cover every declared business line and delivery service, including at least one recently completed engagement and one live or observed simulation per line where relevant. An unevaluated business line SHALL remain outside the accreditation scope.

QUAL.AC.03 The review SHALL establish accountable governance, qualified workforce, validated training materials, secure labs, authorized testing protocols, evidence handling, incident escalation, predictive risk model maintenance, customer reporting, quality assurance, subcontractor oversight, complaints and corrective action mechanisms.

QUAL.AC.04 A provider seeking training or examination-partner accreditation SHALL demonstrate identity verification, individual candidate eligibility checks, exam separation, confidential exam-bank management, trained examiner calibration, appeals, anti-cheating controls, practical lab reset, accessibility and retained decisions. All active OSPCRM instructors and examiners SHALL hold verified relevant qualifications and documented practical competence for modules they deliver.

QUAL.AC.05 Accreditation decision threshold: **100% applicable mandatory requirements passed**; **zero unresolved critical or major findings** at decision; evidence of **at least two complete operating/quality review cycles**, with no less than **90 days** of attributable in-scope delivery records; evaluated scope includes **100% of declared business lines**; and a witnessed, technically scored service demonstration meeting the relevant certification practical thresholds. Longer operational records may be required for risk-intensive schemes.

QUAL.AC.06 Accreditation SHALL identify the exact services and sites or delivery modes assessed. It cannot be extended automatically to subsidiaries, newly added lines, unassessed countries or unrelated standard families.

7. Decisions, surveillance and public verification

QUAL.GV.01 The trained evaluator, examination administrator and authorized decision-maker SHALL be distinct functions where required for independence. Council standards advisers do not participate in applicant decisions by virtue of their standard-setting role.

QUAL.GV.02 Recognition decisions SHALL record assessed scope, achieved status, competent authority, effective dates, evidence reference, surveillance obligations and any excluded capabilities.

QUAL.GV.03 The public registry SHALL use canonical classes **Conformant**, **Certified** and **Accredited**. Legacy technical category values may remain in historic records and SHALL be mapped to a recognition class only when supported by the original authorized decision.

QUAL.GV.04 Suspended, expired, revoked or withdrawn records SHALL retain their historical reference and current status. Public queries shall return only consent-cleared data and shall not expose member files, examinations, private case evidence or internal recusals.

QUAL.GV.05 Appeals, corrections and complaints follow the public PASC procedures. Examination misconduct findings and accreditation sanctions shall be independently reviewed and recorded in controlled case files.

Annex A — Public scope statement

The public record SHALL state: holder, assessed object (person, organization, product, service or work), canonical recognition class, name and edition of standard, specialized profile, authorized issuer, scope, exclusions if relevant, effective status, validity dates and publicly available verification reference.

Annex B — Examination scorecard

Element	Minimum pass
Security foundations (equivalent admission assessment)	85%
Ethical-hacking practical (equivalent admission assessment)	85% + all safety gates
OSPCRM theory / methodology	85%
OSPCRM active practical scenarios	85%
Predictive modelling, FNR and P0 precision	85% and examination dataset target FNR ≤10%, P0 precision ≥90%
Each critical competence section	80%
Mandatory evidence and ethical boundaries	100%; no critical breach
Accreditation mandatory controls	100%; zero critical/major unresolved

Annex C — Public definitions in French

Conforme : un objet ou une mise en œuvre satisfait les exigences applicables dans un périmètre déclaré, preuves à l’appui. **Certifié :** un professionnel satisfait aux prérequis et réussit l’examen officiel administré par un partenaire d’examen accrédité. **Accrédité :** une organisation démontre la mise en œuvre complète et durable, dans les activités, services, processus, formations et capacités explicitement évalués. La conformité ISO équivalente, effective et démontrée, est une condition d’éligibilité à l’évaluation PASC, et non son résultat.