WORKSHEET 4.1

What a Certification Body Actually Verifies About Safety

Subchapter 4.1 · case in the book: Bridgetown

GUIDING QUESTION

Read the scope statement that will appear on your certificate. Then walk the property and find the first activity it does not cover. In most hotels that takes about four minutes.

This worksheet turns the tools of the subchapter into a form you can fill in. The texts come from the book; the empty columns are for your own property. Adapt it before use: an unadapted checklist is exactly what the book warns against.

Practical application: what to do in your property

Step (from the book)	Done?	What we found / owner
Read your scope statement, then find the first activity on your site that it does not cover. Four minutes.		
Prepare the processes rather than the building: what exists, that it has operated, and what it produced.		
Brief heads of department on the two kinds of question (what the requirement is, and what would have demonstrated it) and on the one that cannot be answered.		
Write down what the scope deliberately excludes and why, before somebody asks.		
Treat the report as a statement about a sample. Nothing the auditor did not raise has been found sound.		
Brief heads of department on what the questions will sound like. Oblique questions asked of an unprepared manager produce defensive answers.		
Use the opening meeting. It is the only moment the scope, the plan and the sampling are on the table together.		
Do not claim more scope than you control. A wide scope is an obligation, not a credential.		

These steps are the book's method, not requirements of ISO 45001. Evidence can take whatever form suits the property; a separate document is needed only where an applicable requirement, or the property's own system, makes it necessary.

Verification Pact: what is believed, tested against the standard

What is commonly believed	What actually holds	Our position
«The certification body comes to check whether we are safe.»	It assesses whether a management system conforms to a standard and is effectively implemented, within a stated scope, on sampled evidence.	
«We prepare by getting the building ready.»	The building is worth getting ready. The object of the assessment is a set of processes, and a property can be immaculate with no system at all.	

What is commonly believed	What actually holds	Our position
«The scope is an administrative formality.»	It decides what the certificate covers, what is assessed, and what falls outside both. Most properties have never read their own.	
«No nonconformities means the property conformed.»	It means none were identified in the sample examined in the days allocated. Sample and census are different claims.	
«The auditor can tell us whether this would be acceptable.»	A body that designs a system cannot impartially assess it. The refusal is the mechanism that makes the certificate worth something.	
«The auditor decides whether we are certified.»	The auditor recommends. The decision is made by somebody not involved in the audit, which is a requirement upon the body.	

Common mistakes: a self-check

Mistake (from the book)	Present here?	Action / owner
Preparing the building for an assessment of a system. The two overlap far less than properties expect.		
Never reading the scope statement. It decides what the certificate covers and what is examined.		
Reading the absence of findings as a statement about the property. It is a statement about a sample.		
Asking the auditor whether something would be acceptable. They cannot answer, and the refusal is what makes the certificate worth having.		
Assuming the auditor decides. The decision is made by somebody who was not there.		
Writing a scope wider than the property's control, in the belief that wider is better.		

Operative synthesis

- A certification body assesses whether a management system conforms to a standard and is effectively implemented, within a scope the organisation itself states, on evidence sampled in a number of days calculated from size, complexity and risk. It does not assess whether a property is safe, does not certify legal compliance, and does not guarantee that nobody will be hurt. Those are the boundaries, and almost every difficulty in this chapter comes from a property expecting something on the other side of them.
- **The scope is the property's own sentence and the first thing the assessment reads.** It decides what the certificate covers, what will be examined, and what falls outside both, and in most hotels nobody has read it since it was drafted. A property discovers its scope problem not by being unsafe but by being read.
- The assessment samples, which means a report identifying two nonconformities has told the property about two nonconformities and nothing at all about the rest. And the auditor who will not say whether an arrangement would be acceptable is not being unhelpful: a body that designs a system cannot impartially assess it, and that separation is the only reason the certificate carries any information.
- Four months of preparation: plant rooms labelled, extinguishers current, trolleys replaced, the training matrix completed to the last signature. A first morning spent on two questions. And thirty-

one people working on the property's land, in its guest areas, performing work it markets and profits from, who appeared in no scope, no register and no part of the preparation, because the property had never thought of the beach as itself.

› Which raises the question of who the property should have been buying this assessment from, and what distinguishes one body from another, because the choice is made long before any of this is examined.

Action plan for our property

Action	Owner	Due	How we will know it worked

Source: Francesco Dore, The Helm and the Lens, Volume 3b «The Lens», subchapter 4.1. Edizioni Effedore, 2026. Clause references are paraphrased; this sheet does not reproduce the text of ISO 45001. It is not legal advice: health and safety law is that of the place where the property operates.