

*The Background Screening Credentialing Council*

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*The Background Screening Credentialing Council volunteer members drafted the following response to a question about Information Security in Clause 5.3 of the BSAAP Standard, version 2.0, effective April 6, 2018. This letter is an informal discussion of the question posed and does not constitute a legal opinion of the BSCC.*

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**TITLE: Clause 5.3 – Accredited Academic Institutions**

*Question: Clause 5.3, I checked with our international vendor regarding checking for accredited institutions, and their response was: You would need to ask the "Accreditation committee", what bodies they compare to the U.S. Department of Education and let us know what exactly they are and what country it is located in. If you want us to check against those databases let us know what they are. To say "or comparable global body" is a rather unintelligible as there are 190 other countries each with their own independent laws. So would you let me know please?*

Response: The Background Screening Credentialing Council is in receipt of your inquiry relating to Clause 5.3 (Accredited Academic Institutions) of the Background Screener Agency Accreditation Program's Accreditation Standard with Audit Criteria, v. 2.0 (effective as of April 6, 2018 to the present). Specifically, Clause 5.3 states as follows:

*CRA must have and follow procedures to inform client when post-secondary academic institutions are not accredited by an accrediting body recognized by U.S. Department of Education, Council of Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), similar U.S. body, or comparable global body, if reasonably available, for academic institutions outside the U.S.*

Thank you for submitting your inquiry and giving the BSCC an opportunity to review. The BSCC determined that the language provided in Clause 5.3 was in need of further review and intends to remove the latter portion of the clause dealing with academic institutions outside the U.S. In order to make this change to the Standard however, the BSCC must follow the process defined in BSAAP Policies and Procedures Guide, Section III.A, to revise Clause 5.3 of BSAAP Standard, v. 2.0 which includes a public notice and comment period. Due to the required notice and comment period we cannot confirm at this time what the final language will be but generally note that it is our intent to remove any requirement for confirming accreditation status of post-secondary institutions outside the U.S. In the interim period while the Standard is under review and comment, we have instructed the auditor not to seek evidence of conformance with this portion of Clause 5.3.

Please let us know if you have any further questions.