



## Recognition of equivalence

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# 1. Introduction

The MarinTrust Programme is the leading independent business to business certification programme for the production of marine ingredients. It occupies a unique position in the certification landscape in that it is the only global Programme which assesses both fisheries and factories.

The MarinTrust Programme consists of:

- MarinTrust Standard
- MarinTrust Chain of Custody Standard
- MarinTrust Improver Programme

MarinTrust acknowledges that there are a wide range of fishery and production facility specific Standards and Benchmark Tools in existence, and that some of these may be equivalent to aspects of MarinTrust Programme requirements.

As part of its commitment of driving improvement in fishery management and responsible manufacturing practices, this procedure enables MarinTrust to recognise other Standard or Benchmark Tool requirements as fully, or partially, equivalent against specific components of its Programme.

The objective is to reduce unnecessary assessment and/or audit duplication, whilst ensuring alignment with the objectives of the MarinTrust Programme. This is achieved through the formal recognition of a particular Standard or Benchmark Tool requirements which a fishery and/or facilities hold valid certification / membership can use to demonstrate it meets those MarinTrust requirements contained within the scope of recognition.

# 2. Purpose and scope

This document outlines the recognition of equivalence procedure and methodology to be implemented for Standard and Benchmark Tool requirements to be recognised as equivalent, and maintain such recognition, against relevant requirements under the MarinTrust Programme including:

- Current version of the MarinTrust whole fish fishery requirements
- Current version of the MarinTrust Standard factory requirements

Recognition decisions can have significant consequences throughout a value chain, so it is imperative that recognition of equivalence is carried out with appropriate due diligence. Whilst the core of a Programme may be the Standard (or requirements), the assurance and oversight that sits behind is the backbone to ensure the credibility, integrity, and consistency. Therefore, additional aspects beyond the Standard requirements are considered to ensure alignment with objectives of the MarinTrust Programme and industry needs.

MarinTrust reserves the right to reject, refuse, or withdraw recognition of equivalence of any Standard or Benchmark Tool requirements where the credibility, integrity, or reputation of the MarinTrust Programme is put at risk or brought into disrepute.

### 3. Overview

The procedure for recognition of equivalence involves the evaluation of Standard or Benchmark Tool’s requirements that wish or are intended to be recognised against baseline and relevant MarinTrust requirements. Refer to **Appendix 1 – Equivalency assessment methodology**.

An overview of the key stages are indicated in **Table 1** below:

**Table 1 – Equivalence determination and recognition stages**

	<b>Stages</b>
<b>1</b>	Initiation of recognition of equivalence
<b>2</b>	Self-assessment
<b>3</b>	Equivalency assessment
<b>4</b>	Recognition decision and update of documentation

**Section 5 – 6** outline maintenance and withdrawal requirements of recognition status following successful recognition of equivalence.

#### One-way and mutual recognition

There are two options for the objective of the equivalence determination procedure. These options include:

1. **One-way recognition**
2. **Mutual recognition benefits**

#### One-way recognition:

One-way recognition refers to recognition by MarinTrust of another Standard or Benchmark Tool’s requirements as partially or fully equivalent against a specific component(s) of the MarinTrust Programme.

Where this is the objective, the Standard or Benchmark Tool Owner shall:

1. Collaborate to ensure transparency and accuracy throughout the process.
2. Comply with all process requirements outlined herein for achieving and maintaining recognition of equivalence.
3. Pay all fees associated with the process of achieving and maintaining recognition of equivalence.

**Mutual recognition or benefits:**

Mutual recognition refers to recognition by MarinTrust of another Standard or Benchmark Tool as partially or fully equivalent against a specific component(s) of the MarinTrust Programme where MarinTrust is also recognised.

Where direct recognition of MarinTrust requirements by the Standard or Benchmark Tool Owner is not applicable, parties shall enter into an alternative mutually beneficial agreement which may include:

- Endorsement
- Partnership
- Affiliate membership
- Collaboration

Where this is the objective, MarinTrust and the relevant party shall view the equivalence determination as a process carried out in partnership. In these circumstances:

1. The Standard or Benchmark Tool Owner shall:
  - be required to conduct a self-assessment to support the objective of collaboration and equivalency assessment process.
  - Collaborate to ensure transparency and accuracy throughout the process.
  - Comply with all process requirements outlined herein for achieving and maintaining recognition of equivalence.
2. MarinTrust and the Standard or Benchmark Tool Owner shall sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) prior to the initiation of **Stage 2**. Please refer to MoU for recognition template.

The MoU shall outline key aspects including:

- Agreed costs associated with the process of achieving and maintaining recognition of equivalence and mutual benefit.
  - Unit(s) of Certification (or Approval) of the Standard or scope of recognition of Benchmark Tool.
  - Anticipated timelines, roles, and responsibilities of the parties involved.
  - Funding source(s) for activities associated with the process of recognition of equivalence.
  - Scope of proposed recognition of equivalence.
  - Duration of the validity of the equivalence determination in line with this procedure. Refer to **Section 5 – Maintenance and review of equivalence status**.
  - Potential implications of equivalence determinations beyond those outlined in Stages 3 and 4 herein. *Note: Some implications may not become apparent until after the equivalence determination procedure has been carried out.*
  - Any other information required by the Standard or Benchmark Tool Owner according to their own equivalence determination procedure (if applicable).
3. MarinTrust shall utilise the Standard or Benchmark Tool Owner’s own recognition procedures or requirements where applicable, or any such requirements as required where alternative benefits have been agreed upon.

## 4. Recognition of equivalence procedure

The following outlines the key procedural stages to be carried out for the recognition of equivalence of a Standard or Benchmark Tool requirements against MarinTrust Programme requirements.

### Stage 1 – Initiation of recognition of equivalence

The process of recognition of equivalence can be initiated by:

- MarinTrust
- Standard and Benchmark Tool Owners
- Relevant stakeholder group on behalf of a Standard or Benchmark Tool

#### Initiation – MarinTrust

Where MarinTrust is the initiator of the equivalence determination process, the applicable Standard or Benchmark Tool Owner shall not be required to conduct a self-assessment.

MarinTrust shall:

1. Contact the Standard or Benchmark Tool Owner directly in the first instance outlining its intent to recognise the requirements under the MarinTrust Programme.
2. Proceed to **Stage 3. Equivalency assessment** unless there are significant objections by the Standard or Benchmark Tool Owner.

#### Initiation –Standard or Benchmark Tool Owner / Relevant stakeholder group

Where a Standard or Benchmark Tool Owner, or relevant stakeholder group on their behalf, is the initiator, (hereafter referred to as the relevant party), the relevant party shall:

3. Contact MarinTrust via email at [Standards@marin-trust.com](mailto:Standards@marin-trust.com) outlining its intent to undergo the process of recognition of equivalence.
4. Upon advice of the MarinTrust Secretariat, undergo the process of recognition of equivalence in accordance with this procedure.

## Stage 2 – Self-assessment

The relevant party that intends for a Standard or Benchmark Tool's requirements to be recognised under the MarinTrust Programme shall conduct a self-assessment as follows:

1. Following the notification of intent, MarinTrust shall share all relevant documentation and templates with the relevant party to conduct the required self-assessment.
2. The relevant party shall conduct a self-assessment using the provided templates in line with the relevant requirements. Refer to **Appendix 1 – Equivalency assessment methodology**.
3. The relevant party shall submit the completed self-assessment and relevant supporting evidence documentation to MarinTrust via email.

MarinTrust shall:

4. Assign and commission an approved third party (hereafter referred to as '*third party*') within 10 business days of receipt of the self-assessment documentation from the relevant party to conduct a desktop review of the self-assessment.
5. Issue the self-assessment recognition review fee invoice to the relevant party within 7 business days of confirmation of acceptance by the third party.
6. Instruct the third party to proceed with the self-assessment review within 7 business days of receipt of full payment of the invoice.

Upon instruction by MarinTrust, the third party shall:

7. Conduct an initial desktop review of the self-assessment and submit findings using the '*self-assessment review report*' template to MarinTrust within 20 business days (i.e. 1 calendar month) of instruction received from MarinTrust.
8. Provide a recommendation in the report based on the evidence and findings as follows:
  - a) **No recognition recommended** – Where the Standard or Benchmark Tool Owner falls significantly short of the requirements, it will be recommended to end the process here.
  - b) **Equivalency process recommended** – Where the Standard or Benchmark Tool Owner meets with the majority, or all of the requirements, it will be recommended that a full equivalency assessment be conducted.

Upon receipt of the third party self-assessment review and recommendation, MarinTrust shall:

9. Review the recommendation put forward within 10 business days and take the relevant course of action as follows:
  - a) **No recognition recommended:** Where the determination is 'no recognition recommended', share the results of '*self-assessment review report*' with the relevant party and notify them of the determination not to proceed further with the recognition process. The process shall end here.
  - b) **Recognition process recommended:** Where the determination is 'recognition process recommended':

- I. Share the results of '*self-assessment review report*' with the relevant party and inform them of the determination to proceed to **the Stage 3 - equivalency assessment** of the process.
- II. Assign and commission a third party within 10 business days of receipt of the self-assessment recommendation to conduct the equivalency assessment outlined in **Stage 3**. This party shall not be the same as those that provided the self-assessment review recommendation.
- III. Issue the recognition of equivalency assessment fee invoice to the relevant party within 7 business days of confirmation of acceptance by the third party.
- IV. Instruct the third party to proceed with the recognition of equivalency assessment within 7 business days of receipt of full payment of the invoice.

## Stage 3 – Equivalency assessment

Upon instruction by MarinTrust, the third party shall:

1. Conduct the equivalency assessment in line with **Appendix 1 – Equivalency assessment methodology** using the '*equivalency assessment tool*' and information collected from the '*self-assessment review report*'.
2. Produce a draft report and recommendation from initial findings using the '*recognition determination report*' template.
3. Submit the completed draft '*equivalency assessment tool*' template and '*recognition determination report*' draft to the relevant party, and MarinTrust in copy, within 20 business days (i.e.1 calendar month) of the instruction date, inviting further feedback and evidence on relevant findings and outcome during a 2-week comment period (10 business days).
4. Following the completion of the comment period, consider feedback and evidence received for incorporation into the '*equivalency assessment tool*' template and '*recognition determination report*'.
5. Submit the finalised '*equivalency assessment tool*' template and '*recognition determination report*' to MarinTrust within 10 business days of the comment period deadline.
6. Provide a recognition recommendation in the report based on the evidence and findings as follows:
  - a) **No recognition recommended**
  - b) **Full recognition recommended**
  - c) **Partial recognition recommended**

Upon completion of the equivalency assessment, the process shall proceed to **Stage 4 – Recognition decision and update of documentation**.



## Stage 4 – Recognition decision and update of documentation

Following the completion of equivalency assessment process outlined in **Stage 3**, MarinTrust shall:

1. Inform the relevant party of the completion of the equivalency assessment process and recommended outcome within 7 business days of receiving the finalised ‘*equivalency assessment tool*’ and ‘*recognition determination report*’.
2. Present the findings and recommended outcome of the equivalency assessment to the relevant MarinTrust governance committee for discussion and recommendation of approval to the Governing Body Committee (GBC).
3. Present the findings and recommended outcome of the equivalency assessment and recommendation of approval from the relevant committee to the Governing Body Committee (GBC) at the next scheduled GBC.

**Note: The GBC shall have sole authority on the decision, and the decision shall be final.**

4. Notify the relevant party of the approved recognition of equivalence outcome, within 7 business days of GBC approval.

Where the determination is full or partial recognition of the Standard or Benchmark Tool requirements, MarinTrust shall:

5. Publish a summary of the equivalency assessment report on the MarinTrust website and update all relevant information.
6. Update all relevant Quality Management System (QMS) documents.
7. Notify all registered Certification Bodies (CB) within 7 business days of GBC approval and share all updated QMS documents.

**Important note:** *The Standard or Benchmark Tool will be recognised from this point forward, subject to annual/regular review as outlined in **Stage 5 – Maintenance and review of equivalence status**.*

**Important note:** *Equivalency assessment reports and status of unsuccessful recognition outcome shall not be published via the MarinTrust website. However, where recognition has been unsuccessful as part of the process for maintaining recognition status (refer to **Stage 5**), recognition status shall be withdrawn in accordance with **Section 6 – Withdrawal of recognition**.*

MarinTrust shall refer to ‘*Internal guidance following recognition of other Standards and Benchmark Tool requirements*’ for further guidance.

## 5. Maintenance and review of equivalence status

Standard and Benchmark Tool requirements change over time due to regular review and revision. This includes changes to Standard requirements (clauses), interpretation documents and auditor guidance, and the associated assurance process which can impact the equivalence status of Standard or Benchmark Tool requirements that are formally recognised by MarinTrust.

To maintain equivalence status, a process of periodic review shall be carried out as outlined herein.

The relevant party (refer to **Section 4, of recognition of equivalence** for information on parties) shall:

- Notify MarinTrust via [standards@marin-trust.com](mailto:standards@marin-trust.com) of any upcoming changes to:
  - Status in baseline requirements including:
    - Scope
    - Geographical scope
    - ISO/IEC or equivalency
  - Requirements within the scope of recognition
- Submit an annual declaration form to MarinTrust
- Pay relevant annual recognition fees

The full equivalency process shall be triggered under the following circumstances:

1. After the completion of the development of a new version of the MarinTrust Standard.
2. After the completion of the development of a new version of the recognised Standard or Benchmark Tool requirements.

MarinTrust reserves the right to:

- determine whether changes are sufficiently substantial to require a review of the equivalence of the recognised Standard or Benchmark Tool.
- conduct reviews more frequently if there is evidence that the scope or requirements of the equivalent programme have changed, or for any other reason.
- review or withdraw recognition of equivalence status of any Standard or Benchmark Tool requirements where the credibility, integrity, or reputation of the MarinTrust Programme is put at risk or brought into disrepute.

### 5.1 Review of equivalence status process

Review of equivalence status shall be carried out as follows:

1. MarinTrust shall contact the relevant party on an annual basis and request the submission of a *'summary of changes'* declaration form.
2. The relevant party shall complete and return the *'summary of changes'* form to MarinTrust within 15 business days of receiving the request.
3. Within 10 business days of receiving the *'summary of changes'* declaration form, the MarinTrust shall:
  - Conduct an initial review of the *'summary of changes.'*

- Assign and commission a third party to conduct a desktop review of the ‘summary of changes’.

Upon acceptance of the commission, the third party shall:

4. Conduct a desktop review using the ‘annual recognition status review’ template and information gathered from the ‘summary of changes’ declaration form.
5. Provide a recommendation of **agree** or **disagree** with the outcome of the ‘summary of changes’ and submit the draft ‘annual recognition status review’ report to the relevant party within 15 business days of the commission date and shall invite feedback on the outcome of the status review during a 2-week comment period (10 business days).
6. Following the completion of the comment period, consider feedback and comments received for incorporation into the ‘annual recognition status review’ report.
7. Submit the finalised ‘annual recognition status review’ report to MarinTrust within 10 business days of the comment period deadline.
8. Provide a recommendation in the report based on the evidence and findings as follows:
  - a) **Recognition status maintained** – where there been no or minor changes to relevant aspects the Standard or Benchmark Tool requirements.
  - b) **Recognition process triggered** – Where there have been substantial changes to relevant aspects of the Standard or Benchmark Tool requirements, the full equivalency assessment process outlined in **Stage 3** shall be carried out.

#### **Recognition status maintained:**

Where there has been no change, or minor changes, to relevant aspects of the Standard or Benchmark Tool requirements, the recognition status shall be maintained. Please refer to **Table 2** for further information.

MarinTrust shall:

9. share the results of the annual recognition status review’ report with the relevant party and notify that the determination is to maintain recognition status.

#### **Recognition process triggered:**

Where there have been substantial changes to relevant aspects of the Standard or Benchmark Tool requirements, the full equivalency assessment process as outlined in **Stage 3** shall be triggered. Please refer to **Table 2** for further information.

MarinTrust shall:

10. share the results of the ‘annual recognition status review’ report with the relevant party and notify that the determination is to trigger the recognition process following substantial changes.
11. initiate the equivalency assessment process as outlined in **Stage 3**.

Descriptions of change categorisation can be found outlined in **Table 2** below:

**Table 2 – Change categorisation**

Change categorisation	Description
No changes	There have been no changes to the requirements.
Minor changes	There have been minor changes to the requirements which do not impact the original intent.
Substantial changes	Changes have been made to the requirements which have an impact on the original intent.

## 6. Withdrawal of recognition

### Recognition status withdrawn

Failure to comply with the process or requirements for maintaining recognition, or where the recognition outcome of an existing Standard or Benchmark Tool requirements recognised by MarinTrust has been unsuccessful, the recognition status shall be withdrawn.

MarinTrust shall:

1. Notify the relevant party and all registered CBs of the final approval decision of the GBC to withdraw formal recognition, within 7 business days of the decision.
2. Notify all certificate holders and stakeholders of the withdrawal within 7 business days of GBC approval.
3. Update the equivalence status on the MarinTrust website, all relevant QMS documentation, and share all updated QMS documents with registered CBs within 20 business days of the GBC approval decision.

For further information, please refer to '*Internal guidance following recognition of other Standards and Benchmark Tool requirements*'.

# Appendices

## Appendix 1 – Equivalency assessment methodology

The equivalency assessment comprises of two steps as follows:

**Step 1** – Assessment of baseline requirements

**Step 2** – Determination of equivalence against relevant MarinTrust Programme requirements

The '*MarinTrust equivalency assessment tool*' template is to be used when conducting a self-assessment or equivalency assessment and comprises of various tabs including:

1. Guidance
2. Standard / Benchmark Tool Owner general information and baseline requirements
3. ISO/IEC 17065 alignment information sheet
4. MarinTrust Programme requirements for:
  - MarinTrust whole fish fishery requirements
  - MarinTrust Standard requirements

Steps 1 and 2 outline the equivalency assessment methodology below.

### Step 1 – Assessment of baseline requirements

To safeguard the integrity and assurance of the MarinTrust Programme, it must be determined that the Standard or Benchmark Tool Owner is credible, robust, and relevant.

To be recognised under the MarinTrust Programme, the following baseline requirements shall be met.

The Standard or Benchmark Tool shall:

- **Operations:** be fully operational (i.e., not under development) and must include third-party assessment and auditing.
- **Scope of requirements:** overlap between the scope of the Standard or Benchmark Tool requirements and scope of MarinTrust requirements. The scope of the Standard or Benchmark Tool must be applicable to fisheries and/or seafood manufacturing and processing facilities and align with objectives of the MarinTrust Programme and industry needs. Where the scope is fisheries, these shall have been developed in alignment with the FAO Code of FAO Code of Conduct for responsible fisheries (CCRF).
- **Geographical scope of requirements:** define the geographical scope which shall be global or regional.

- **ISO/IEC 17065 or equivalence:** either:
  - i. Implement a certification and assurance model in which the oversight entity is accredited against ISO/IEC 17065 to the scope of the certification.  
or,
  - ii. Demonstrate that it implements a certification assurance model that is in alignment with the intent of ISO/IEC 17065 requirements.  
or,
  - iii. Demonstrate that it implements a certification assurance model in which the oversight entity assesses and is able to demonstrate alignment with the intent of ISO/IEC 17065 requirements.

Please refer to **Appendix 2** for further details on the demonstration of alignment with the intent of ISO/IEC 17065 requirements.

Where it has been demonstrated that all the baseline requirements have been met, the process shall proceed to **Step 2** – Equivalency against relevant MarinTrust Programme requirements.

Where baseline requirements are not met, the Standard or Benchmark Tool shall not proceed to step 2 and recognition may not be granted.

## Step 2 – Equivalency assessment against MarinTrust Standards’ requirements

Upon meeting the baseline requirements, the equivalency assessment shall be carried out against the relevant MarinTrust requirements as outlined in the following sections:

- 2a. MarinTrust whole fishery requirements
- 2b. MarinTrust Standard requirements
  - Section 2: Quality Management System
  - Subsection 5.2 – 5.4: Good Manufacturing Practices
  - Section 7: Social accountability and community

The equivalence of a Standard or Benchmark Tool’s requirements against relevant MarinTrust requirements is determined through an equivalency assessment utilising the ‘*equivalency assessment tool*’ template. This is used to determine the level of equivalency by awarding an equivalency grade.

The equivalency assessment shall allocate a level of equivalency of the Standard or Benchmark Tool’s requirements against each MarinTrust Standard and/or whole fish fishery assessment requirement in accordance with **Table 3** below.

**Table 3 – Determining level of equivalency**

<b>Level of Equivalency</b>	<b>Description</b>
Equivalent	The requirement is the same as or fully comparable to the intent of the requirement set out by MarinTrust.
Partially equivalent	The requirement has some elements that are the same or comparable to the intent of the requirement set out by MarinTrust however, there are some gaps.
Not equivalent	The requirement is not the same or comparable in any capacity to the intent of the requirement set out by MarinTrust.
Not Applicable	Those requirements that have been graded as ‘not applicable’ shall not be assessed for equivalency.

The equivalency assessment shall then allocate an overall assessment result in accordance with **Table 4** below utilising the total allocated score.

**Table 4 – Overall equivalency assessment results**

Overall equivalency assessment result	Description
Fully equivalent	The Standard / Benchmark Tool has demonstrated full equivalence against all relevant MarinTrust requirement within the scope of recognition.
Partially equivalent	The Standard / Benchmark Tool has demonstrated the minimum level of equivalency required against the relevant MarinTrust requirement within the scope of recognition, however, some are not met, or partially met.
Not equivalent	The Standard / Benchmark Tool has not demonstrated the minimum level of equivalency required against the relevant MarinTrust requirement within the scope of recognition.

To be recognised, all Standard and Benchmark Tool requirements must meet with the minimum level of equivalency against the relevant MarinTrust requirements as outlined in Sections **2a** and **2b** as follows:

## 2a – Equivalency assessment against the MarinTrust Standard – Whole fish fishery assessment requirements

To be recognised as equivalent against the MarinTrust whole fish fishery component, Standard and Benchmark Tool requirements must meet with 100% the **intent** of MarinTrust whole fish fishery assessment requirements.

## 2b – Equivalency assessment against MarinTrust Standard – Production facility requirements

To be recognised as equivalent against specific components of the MarinTrust Standard, Standard and Benchmark Tool requirements must meet with the minimum levels of equivalency outlined in **Table 5** below.



**Table 5 – Minimum level of equivalency and overall equivalency assessment result**

MarinTrust Standard V3 - Section	Minimum level of equivalency required for recognition	Equivalence level	Overall equivalency assessment result
		The standard or Benchmark Tool has meet, or exceeded the intent of:	
Section 2 – Quality Management System	≥70% of MarinTrust requirements	100% of MarinTrust requirements	Full equivalence
		≥70% of MarinTrust requirements but < 100%	Partial equivalence
		<70% of MarinTrust requirements	Not equivalent
Subsection 5.2 – 5.4 – Good Manufacturing Practices	≥70% of MarinTrust requirements (including essential criteria)	100% of MarinTrust requirements	Full equivalence
		≥70% of MarinTrust requirements but < 100%	Partial equivalence
		<70% of MarinTrust requirements	Not equivalent
Section 7 – Social accountability and community	≥80% of MarinTrust requirements	100% of MarinTrust requirements	Full equivalence
		≥80% of MarinTrust requirements but < 100%	Partial equivalence
		<80% of MarinTrust requirements	Not equivalent

Standards and Benchmark Tools may be recognised against one or more components of the MarinTrust Standard; however, the minimum level of equivalency must be met with each, and the scope of equivalence shall be clearly defined within the *equivalency report*.

**Note:** Recognition may not be achieved against sections which are not stipulated within **Table 5** and ‘*equivalency assessment tool*’. These requirements are specific to the MarinTrust Programme and must be audited in full.

## Appendix 2 – Demonstration of alignment with ISO/IEC 17065 intent

To be eligible for recognition under the MarinTrust Programme, a Standard and Benchmark Tool Owner must be able to demonstrate, using the *ISO/IEC 17065 alignment information sheet*, the following:

### Standard Owners

Standard Owners applying directly for recognition by MarinTrust who **do not** implement a certification and assurance model which complies with ISO/IEC 17065 must be able to either:

- i. Demonstrate that it implements a certification assurance model that is in alignment with the intent of ISO/IEC 17065 requirements.
- or,
- ii. Demonstrate that it implements a certification assurance model in which the oversight entity assesses and is able to demonstrate alignment with the intent of ISO/IEC 17065 requirements.

Where alignment is successful, the Standard shall be determined as meeting with this baseline requirement.

Where alignment is unsuccessful, the Standard shall be determined as not meeting with this baseline requirements and shall not qualify for recognition under the MarinTrust Programme.

### Benchmark Tool Owners

All Benchmark Tool Owners shall meet, and require its recognised Standards to meet, with the following requirements.

This is to ensure consistency of Standards being recognised through Benchmark Tools by MarinTrust throughout, whilst reducing the need to conduct individual evaluations of each Standard owners' requirements.

#### **Step 1 – ISO/IEC 17065 requirements: Benchmark tool recognised Standards**

Where a Benchmark Tool Owner **does** require that Standard Owners of recognised Standards must implement a certification and assurance model in which the oversight entity is accredited against ISO/IEC 17065 to the scope of the certification, it shall be determined as meeting with this baseline requirement and proceed to **Step 2 – ISO/IEC 17065 requirements: Benchmark Tool Owner**.

Where the Benchmark Tool Owner **does not** require its recognised Standards to implement a certification and assurance model in which the oversight entity is accredited against ISO/IEC 17065 to the scope of the certification, the Benchmark Tool Owner must be able to demonstrate its own oversight requirements for Standard Owners of its recognised Standards align with the intent of ISO/IEC 17065 requirements.

Where the Benchmark Tool Owner is able to successfully demonstrate its own oversight requirements alignment with the intent of ISO/IEC 17065 requirements for Standard Owners of its recognised

Standards, it shall be determined as meeting with this baseline requirement and proceed to **Step 2 – ISO/IEC 17065 requirements: Benchmark Tool Owner**.

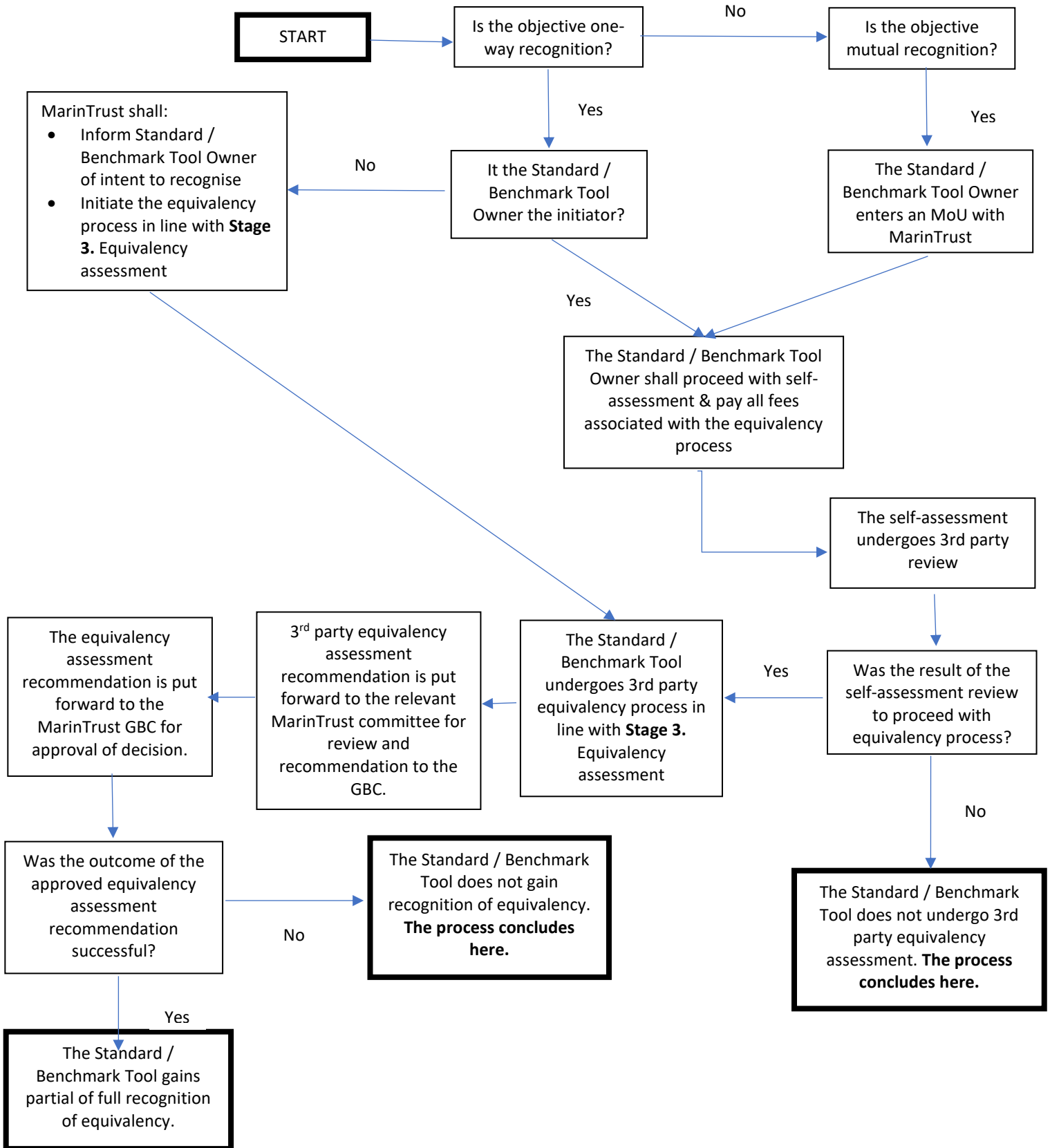
Where the Benchmark Tool Owner is unsuccessful, it shall not proceed to **Step 2** and shall not qualify for recognition under the MarinTrust Programme.

**Step 2 – ISO/IEC 17065 requirements: Benchmark Tool Owner**

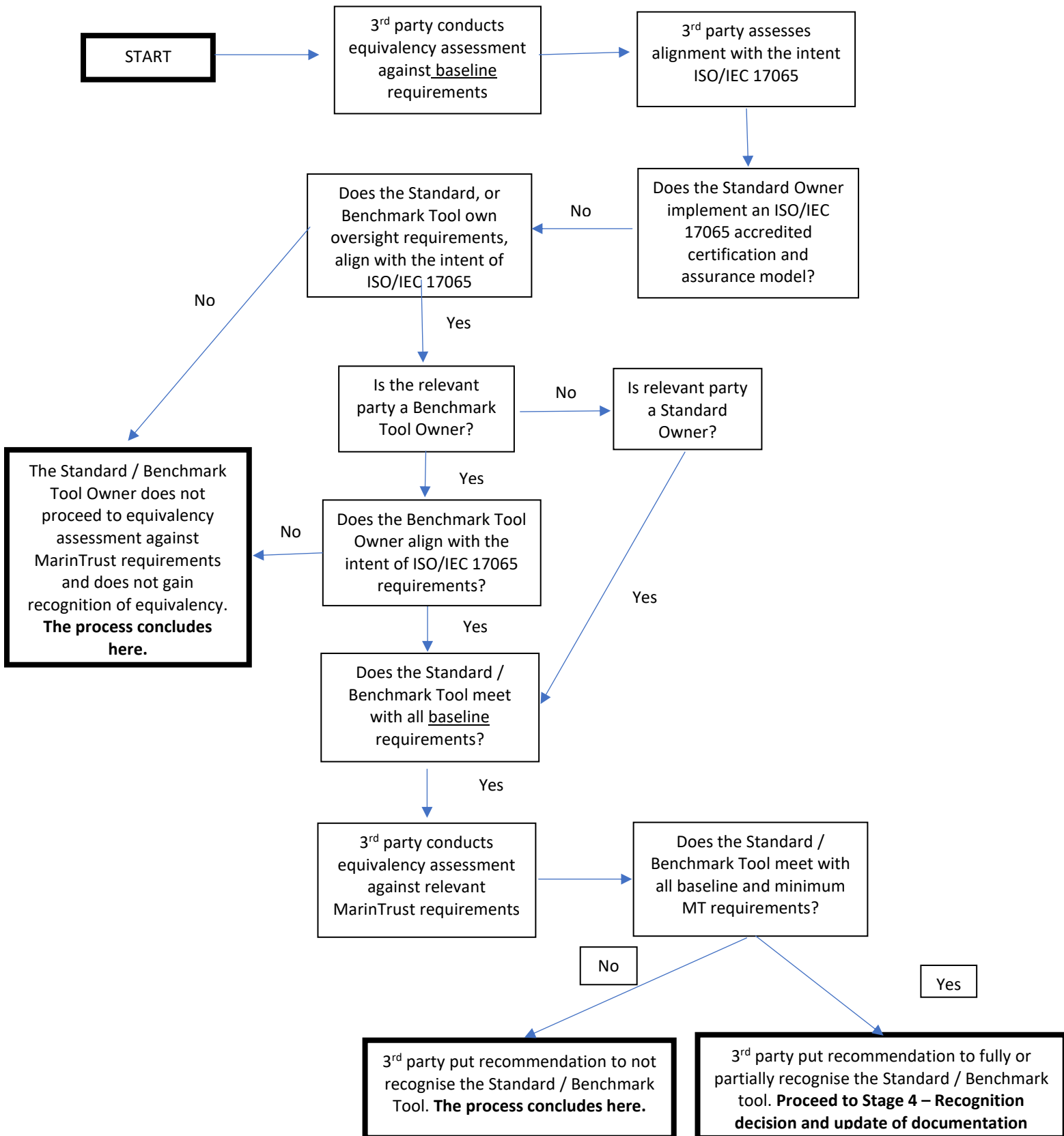
Direct adherence to ISO/IEC 17065 of Benchmark Tools is outside the scope of ISO/IEC 17065 and therefore is not applicable. Instead, all Benchmark Tool Owners must demonstrate its alignment with the intent of ISO/IEC 17065 requirements.

Where **both** the Benchmark Tool requirements of its recognised Standards and the Benchmark Tool have demonstrated compliance with or alignment with the intent of ISO/IEC 17065 requirements, the Benchmark Tool shall be determined as meeting with this baseline requirement.

## Appendix 3 – Recognition procedure overview - flow chart



## Appendix 4 – Equivalency assessment overview - flow chart



## AMENDMENT LOG

DATE	ISSUE	AMENDMENT	AUTHORISED BY
24/01/2023	V2.0	Update of section 1.1 to expand the scope to include benchmarking tools and MarinTrust Chain of Custody	Libby Woodhatch, Executive Chair
24/01/2023	V2.0	Removal of definitions of terms	Libby Woodhatch, Executive Chair
24/01/2023	V2.0	Update of section 2.1 to include detail of benchmarking scope in point 3.	Libby Woodhatch, Executive Chair
24/01/2023	V2.0	Addition of a section for withdrawal of recognition.	Libby Woodhatch, Executive Chair
24/01/2023	V2.0	Update of terminologies throughout to ensure consistency.	Libby Woodhatch, Executive Chair
24/01/2023	V2.0	Inclusion of further details and clearly defined step by step process, section 3 (Overview).	Libby Woodhatch, Executive Chair
24/01/2023	V2.0	Section 4: Full review of Stage 1, 2,3 and 4 to ensure clarity and relevancy.	Libby Woodhatch, Executive Chair
24/01/2023	V2.0	Update to Section 5, Maintenance and review of equivalence status to ensure clarity.	Libby Woodhatch, Executive Chair
24/01/2023	V2.0	Inclusion of flow charts for recognition procedure overview and equivalence assessment overview – Appendix 3 and 4.	Libby Woodhatch, Executive Chair