



Global AI  
Certification Council



# GAICC ISO/IEC 42001 LEAD IMPLEMENTER CERTIFICATION

Examination Content Outline –  
February 2026

Global AI Certification Council (GAICC)

## Examination Content Outline

February 2026

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# Introduction

The **Global AI Certification Council (GAICC)** offers a professional certification for artificial-intelligence governance and compliance professionals known as the **GAICC ISO/IEC 42001 Lead Implementer Certification – Fees (LI)**.

This credential validates a practitioner’s competence to **plan, conduct, report, and follow up audits** of an **Artificial Intelligence Management System (AIMS)** in accordance with **ISO/IEC 42001: 2023** — the first international standard for responsible AI governance.

The Lead Implementer credential represents applied proficiency in building and integrating an AIMS across the full organisational lifecycle—covering policy creation, AI-risk and impact assessment, lifecycle control, data-governance mechanisms, monitoring, and continual improvement.

GAICC develops and administers its certifications in alignment with **ISO/IEC 17024** (Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons) to ensure impartiality, transparency, and validity. Each GAICC examination is **competency-based**, derived from global practice analyses, and psychometrically validated to reflect the real-world responsibilities of AI-governance auditors across industries and jurisdictions.

This **Examination Content Outline (ECO)** defines:

- The domains of competence required of a certified Lead Implementer.
- The tasks and enabling activities that demonstrate capability within each domain.
- The relative weighting of each domain in the overall assessment.

The LI examination evaluates knowledge and skills across the entire AIMS lifecycle—from governance and leadership through implementation, performance measurement, audit readiness, ethics, and external engagement.

Questions are authored and validated by global subject-matter experts from government, academia, and industry to ensure accuracy, fairness, and international applicability. Each item maps to the GAICC ISO/IEC 42001 Lead Implementer ECO and is referenced to authoritative sources, including **ISO/IEC 42001**, **GAICC Guidance Documents**, and relevant ISO companion standards such as **ISO 9001 (Quality Management)**, **ISO/IEC 27001 (Information Security Management)**, and **ISO/IEC 27701 (Privacy Information Management)**.

This document serves both as the **blueprint for the GAICC Lead Implementer examination and as a professional-development guide** for individuals and organisations seeking to strengthen capability in responsible, transparent, and auditable AI governance.

# Exam Content Outline

The **GAICC ISO/IEC 42001 Lead Implementer Certification (LI)** examination measures the candidate’s ability to apply the principles, clauses, and controls of **ISO/IEC 42001: 2023** in planning, deploying, and maintaining an Artificial Intelligence Management System (AIMS).

The outline below defines the major **domains of professional competence** and the **approximate weighting** of questions from each domain on the examination. Each domain contains a group of **tasks**—the core responsibilities expected of a Lead Implementer—and associated **enablers**, which illustrate the knowledge, behaviours, and artefacts demonstrating capability.

The distribution ensures balanced coverage across the full lifecycle of AI governance, from leadership and risk control to ethical assurance and stakeholder engagement.

## Domains and Weightings

Domain	Description	Approximate Weight on Exam
<b>I. Governance and Leadership in AI Management Systems</b>	Establishing AIMS scope, governance structures, roles, and policy direction aligned with organisational strategy and ISO/IEC 42001 requirements.	25%
<b>II. Implementation and Operational Control of the AIMS</b>	Executing the implementation plan—performing AI-risk and impact assessments, establishing data-governance and lifecycle-control mechanisms, and maintaining documented procedures.	40%

<p><b>III. Performance, Audit Readiness and Continual Improvement</b></p>	<p>Monitoring AIMS performance, addressing non-conformities, conducting internal audits, and supporting certification readiness.</p>	<p>20%</p>
<p><b>IV. Ethics, Transparency, and External Engagement</b></p>	<p>Embedding responsible-AI principles, promoting explainability and transparency, and maintaining constructive stakeholder communication.</p>	<p>15%</p>
<p><b>Total</b></p>		<p>100%</p>

# Domain, Task and Enablers

In the **GAICC ISO/IEC 42001 Lead Implementer Certification (LI)** framework, a domain represents a major area of professional competence required to design, implement, and sustain an Artificial Intelligence Management System (AIMS).

Each domain comprises:

- **Tasks** — the measurable responsibilities of the professional—and enablers—examples of tangible evidence or actions that demonstrate these competencies in practice.
- **Enablers** — examples of tangible evidence, behaviours, or actions that demonstrate these competencies in practice.

Enablers are **illustrative rather than exhaustive**, allowing flexibility across industries, audit scopes, and organisational maturity levels.

## Domain I – Governance and Leadership in AI Management Systems (≈ 25 %)

### Purpose:

To establish leadership commitment, policy direction, and accountability so that the organisation’s use of artificial intelligence aligns with strategic goals, ethical values, and legal obligations.

Task	Illustrative Enablers / Examples
1. Define the scope and context of the AIMS.	Identification of internal and external issues, stakeholder expectations, and AI use cases relevant to the organisation.
2. Develop and approve an AI policy aligned with strategic objectives.	Policy statements addressing fairness, transparency, security, and continual improvement.
3. Assign roles and responsibilities for AI governance.	Governance charters, RACI matrices, delegation records, and decision hierarchies.
4. Integrate AI objectives into corporate strategy and monitor progress.	Objective registers, performance KPIs, and management-review records.
5. Promote leadership accountability and ethical AI culture.	Leadership communications, awareness campaigns, and recognition of ethical practice.

## Domain II – Implementation and Operational Control of the AIMS (≈ 40 %)

### Purpose:

To plan, implement, and operate an AIMS that satisfies ISO/IEC 42001 requirements and embeds robust controls for AI-risk management, data governance, and system lifecycle operations.

Task	Illustrative Enablers / Examples
1. Perform AI-risk and impact assessments (AI-SIA).	Risk registers, impact-analysis reports, and mitigation plans.
2. Implement data-governance and AI-lifecycle controls.	Procedures for data quality, bias detection, model validation, and change management.
3. Ensure resources and competence for AIMS operations.	Competence matrices, training plans, resource-allocation records.
4. Control documented information and internal communication.	Document-control registers, version logs, communication matrices.
5. Operate and monitor AI systems under defined controls.	Incident logs, operational dashboards, and model-performance reports.

## Domain III – Performance, Audit Readiness and Continual Improvement (≈ 20 %)

### Purpose:

To evaluate AIMS effectiveness, maintain audit readiness, and drive data-driven continual improvement toward certification objectives.

Task	Illustrative Enablers / Examples
1. Monitor AIMS performance against defined metrics.	Fairness and accuracy dashboards, error trend analyses.
2. Conduct internal audits and management reviews.	Approved audit plans, review minutes, and action trackers.
3. Address non-conformities and implement corrective actions.	Root-cause analysis reports and CAPA records.
4. Promote continual improvement initiatives.	Improvement registers, lessons-learned repositories.
5. Maintain audit and certification readiness.	Statements of Applicability, evidence indices, and audit-readiness checklists.

## Domain IV – Ethics, Transparency, and External Engagement (≈ 15 %)

### Purpose:

To ensure AI systems are developed and used responsibly through ethical integration, explainability, and stakeholder trust.

Task	Illustrative Enablers / Examples
1. Embed ethical principles within AI design and deployment.	Ethical risk-control maps, bias-testing evidence, human-oversight protocols.
2. Provide transparency and explainability for AI decisions.	User-facing explanation templates, traceability logs.
3. Engage stakeholders and communicate AI impacts.	Stakeholder consultation records and responsible-AI reports.
4. Align supplier and third-party practices with AIMS requirements.	Supplier compliance clauses, assurance audits, and performance reviews.

## Cognitive Depth and Assessment Approach

The GAICC Lead Implementer exam tests three cognitive levels across all domains:

- **Understanding:** Knowledge of AIMS requirements and ISO/IEC 42001 structure.
- **Application:** Practical implementation of controls and governance mechanisms.
- **Analysis and Evaluation:** Critical assessment of complex scenarios requiring ethical judgement and systemic thinking

# GAICC Application & Payment

## GAICC Eligibility Requirements

To qualify for the **GAICC ISO/IEC 42001 Lead Implementer Certification(LI)** certification, candidates must demonstrate suitable education, professional experience, and structured training aligned with the competencies required to establish and maintain an Artificial Intelligence Management System (AIMS).

Educational Background	Recommended Professional Experience	Formal Training Requirement
<b>Diploma or equivalent</b>	<b>Three (3) years</b> of relevant professional experience in AI governance, ISO-based management systems, data governance, or digital risk management.	Completion of at least 32 contact hours (CPDs) of structured GAICC-approved Internal Auditor training OR delivered by GAICC-authorized providers or equivalent recognised institutions
<b>Bachelor's degree or higher</b>	<b>One (1) year</b> of relevant experience in AI governance, risk management, or ISO-based framework implementation.	Completion of at least 32 contact hours (CPDs) of structured GAICC-approved Internal Auditor training OR delivered by GAICC-authorized providers or equivalent recognised institutions
<b>Additional Notes</b>		

- Experience should involve direct participation in the design, operation, or evaluation of an AI Management System (AIMS) or related ISO management frameworks.
- Training hours must be earned through GAICC-authorized providers or recognised educational institutions offering courses mapped to ISO/IEC 42001 competencies.
- Individuals holding the **GAICC Foundation Certification based on ISO/IEC 42001** automatically meet the training requirement and are eligible to attempt the Lead Implementer examination directly.

# GAICC Examination Information

The **GAICC ISO/IEC 42001 Lead Implementer Certification (LI)** examination is a **competency-based assessment** designed to evaluate a candidate’s ability to apply the requirements and principles of **ISO/IEC 42001: 2023** across all stages of an **Artificial Intelligence Management System (AIMS)**—from planning and implementation through performance monitoring and continual improvement.

## Exam Structure

Component	Description
<b>Total Questions</b>	60
<b>Format</b>	Multiple-choice and scenario-based questions delivered through the GAICC Online Testing Platform.
<b>Allotted Time</b>	90 minutes (1.5 hours).
<b>Pre-Exam Tutorial &amp; Post-Exam Survey</b>	A brief tutorial precedes the exam and an optional survey follows it. Neither counts toward the official exam time.

## Exam Delivery

The **LI examination** is available as **online AI-proctored** or **centre-based testing**. All questions are presented in random order; once a section is submitted, answers cannot be revisited.

The GAICC testing platform includes:

- A built-in timer and progress bar.
- Flag-for-review functionality.
- Automated submission at time expiry.

## Scoring and Results

- Each scored question is worth **one mark**.
- Examination results are reported **immediately upon completion**.
- Feedback is provided by **domain** (Governance, Implementation, Performance, and Ethics).
- **A minimum scaled score of 70 %** is required to pass.

All scores are verified through GAICC's **psychometric calibration process** to maintain fairness and comparability across testing sessions and delivery modes.

## Retake Policy

GAICC upholds a fair, learner-centred retake approach:

- All retakes may be scheduled at a **discounted re-examination fee**.
- All retakes must occur within the original eligibility window.

This policy balances exam security with professional-development support. There is no free retake.

## Eligibility Period and Re-application

The eligibility period begins on the date of **application approval** and remains valid for **twelve (12) months**.

If a candidate does not attempt or pass the exam within this timeframe, the application expires and a **new application** must be submitted.

## Additional Information

GAICC conducts regular **psychometric reviews** to preserve exam validity, reliability, and global relevance.

If an exam session is affected by confirmed **technical issues or system irregularities**, the candidate will be offered a **free re-examination** without penalty.

# GAICC ISO/IEC 42001 Lead Implementer Certification – Fees

## Membership Fees

Membership fee is 99 USD.

## Examination Fees

Exam Fee – Member (USD)	Exam Fee – Non-Member (USD)
149	249

## Notes:

- All fees are quoted in **USD** and may be subject to local taxes or payment-processing charges.
- **Membership is optional**, but it provides discounted exam fees and access to GAICC professional-development resources.
- Payments may be made via **credit card** or **international bank transfer** through the GAICC Certification Portal.
- Renewal and re-examination fees are published annually on the **GAICC official website**.

# GAICC Certification Maintenance and Renewal Requirements

## Certification Validity

The **GAICC ISO/IEC 42001 Lead Implementer Certification (LI)** certification is valid for a period of three (3) years from the date of initial certification.

To maintain active status, certified professionals must demonstrate continuing learning and engagement in the domains of **AI governance, risk management, and ISO/IEC 42001 implementation**.

## Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Requirements

During each three-year certification cycle, GAICC-certified **Lead Auditors** must earn and record a minimum of **40 Continuing Professional Development (CPD) hours**, distributed across the following categories:

CPD Category	Description	Minimum Hours
<b>1. Professional Learning</b>	Participation in GAICC-recognised training, webinars, or workshops on AI management systems, governance, ethics, data privacy, or related ISO standards.	15
<b>2. Practical Application</b>	Direct involvement in implementing, maintaining, or auditing AI management systems; conducting AI risk assessments; or supporting AIMS operations.	15
<b>3. Contribution &amp; Knowledge Sharing</b>	Activities such as mentoring, publishing, presenting, or contributing to AI governance communities, research, or standards development.	5

<b>4. Elective Activities</b>	Additional professional-development or community-learning activities supporting continuous growth.	5
	<b>Total Minimum Required:</b>	<b>40 CPDs over three years</b>

## Renewal Process

To renew the Lead Implementer certification, candidates must:

1. Submit a **Renewal Application** through the GAICC Certification Portal before the expiry date.
2. Provide verifiable evidence of **40 completed CPD hours** during the certification cycle.
3. Pay the **renewal fee** specified in the current GAICC fee schedule.
4. Reaffirm agreement to the **GAICC Code of Professional Conduct** and the **Ethical AI Implementation Principles**.

## Lapsed Certifications

- If renewal requirements are **not met by the expiry date**, the certification status changes to “**Lapsed**.”
- Lapsed professionals may **reinstate** their certification by completing all renewal steps within **12 months** of expiry.
- After 12 months, **re-certification** requires retaking the full examination.

## Audit and Verification

GAICC conducts **periodic CPD audits** to verify the accuracy of reported learning activities.

Candidates selected for audit must submit **supporting documentation**, such as certificates of completion, attendance records, publications, or attestation letters.

# GAICC Code of Conduct and Ethics Statement

## Purpose

The **Global AI Certification Council (GAICC)** upholds the highest standards of **integrity, accountability, and professional behaviour** in the certification and practice of **Artificial Intelligence Management System (AIMS)** professionals.

All GAICC-certified individuals must demonstrate **ethical leadership and responsible stewardship** in the **evaluation, assurance, and governance** of AI systems, consistent with the values of **ISO/IEC 42001** and the ethical principles defined in **ISO 19011**.

## Commitment to Ethical Practice

By applying for and maintaining GAICC certification, candidates agree to:

1. **Act with Integrity and Fairness** – Conduct all professional activities honestly, without bias, conflict of interest, or misrepresentation of competence or credentials.
2. **Protect Human Rights and Wellbeing** – Ensure that AI systems under their influence respect human dignity, fairness, privacy, and non-discrimination.
3. **Ensure Transparency and Accountability** – Promote explainable and auditable AI outcomes; disclose limitations, risks, and decision criteria in plain language.
4. **Safeguard Data and Information** – Uphold confidentiality and data-protection principles consistent with ISO/IEC 42001, ISO/IEC 27701, and applicable laws.
5. **Exercise Professional Competence** – Maintain up-to-date knowledge through continual learning, professional development, and adherence to recognised standards and best practices.
6. **Report and Mitigate Misuse** – Take appropriate action when encountering unethical AI practices or violations of applicable regulations or standards.
7. **Respect Intellectual Property and Diversity of Perspectives** – Value collaboration, cultural sensitivity, and inclusiveness across disciplines and communities.

## Disciplinary and Enforcement Process

Violations of this Code may result in disciplinary action, including **suspension or revocation** of GAICC certification.

Complaints or ethics concerns may be submitted confidentially to the **GAICC Ethics and Compliance Committee**, which oversees investigations, recommendations, and fair resolution procedures.

## Acknowledgment

All GAICC-certified professionals are required to confirm their acceptance of the **Code of Conduct and Ethics** during application, renewal, or recertification. Adherence to this Code reinforces global confidence in GAICC-certified practitioners and the responsible governance of Artificial Intelligence technologies.

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

## GAICC ISO/IEC 42001 Lead Implementer Certification Examination Content Outline – February 2026 Global AI Certification Council (GAICC)

### 1. What is the GAICC ISO/IEC 42001 Lead Implementer Certification?

It is an internationally recognised credential that validates the competence of professionals who **implement and maintain Artificial Intelligence Management Systems (AIMS)** in accordance with **ISO/IEC 42001:2023**.

The certification demonstrates a practitioner's ability to translate AI-governance principles into structured processes, controls, and continual improvement activities.

### 2. Who should apply for this certification?

This certification is ideal for:

- AI governance professionals and AIMS coordinators.
- Compliance managers or internal auditors working with ISO standards.
- IT, data, or ethics officers supporting responsible AI deployment.
- Consultants implementing AIMS or supporting certification-readiness programmes.

### 3. What are the eligibility requirements?

Applicants must meet education, professional experience, and formal training (CPD) criteria:

- **Education:** Diploma or higher qualification.
- **Experience:**
  - Diploma holders — minimum three (3) years of relevant AI governance or ISO implementation experience.
  - Bachelor's degree or above — minimum one (1) year of relevant professional experience.
- **Training:** Completion of at least 32 contact hours (CPDs) in ISO/IEC 42001 implementation or equivalent GAICC-approved training.

### 4. How many questions are in the exam and how long does it take?

The examination consists of **60 questions** (55 scored + 5 unscored pre-test items). Candidates have **90 minutes (1.5 hours)** to complete the exam.

### 5. What is the passing score?

A minimum scaled **score of 70%** is required to pass.

## 6. How often can I take the exam?

Each candidate can retake the exam multiple times within their eligibility period, but must pay a discounted re-examination fee for each attempt, as there are **no free retakes**.

## 7. What is the certification validity period?

The Foundation certification is valid for **three (3) years** from the date of issue.

## 8. How do I maintain or renew my certification?

Certified professionals must complete a minimum of **40 Continuing Professional Development (CPD)** hours within each three-year cycle and submit a renewal application with the required fee.

## 9. What does the exam cover?

The exam assesses knowledge across **four domains**:

1. Governance and Leadership in AI Management Systems
2. Implementation and Operational Control of the AIMS
3. Performance, Audit Readiness and Continual Improvement
4. Ethics, Transparency and External Engagement

## 10. What is the exam format?

The exam includes multiple-choice and scenario-based questions. It is delivered through the GAICC Online AI-Proctored Testing Platform, ensuring secure and flexible access worldwide.

## 11. How much does the exam cost?

Exam fee is 149 USD for Members and 249 USD for non members. Membership is optional but provides discounted exam fees and access to GAICC learning resources.

Membership is optional but provides discounted exam fees and access to GAICC learning resources.

## 12. How much is the membership fee?

Standard (USD)	Student (USD)
99	39

## 13. How long does GAICC take to process an application?

Online applications are reviewed **within five (5) calendar days**, provided all training documents are complete.

If selected for audit, additional verification may extend processing time.

## 14. What happens if I fail to renew my certification?

If renewal requirements are not met by the expiry date, your status becomes **“Lapsed.”**

You may reinstate within **12 months** by completing renewal steps; after that period, full re-examination is required.

## 15. Does GAICC provide digital credentials?

Yes. Upon certification, you receive a **digital badge and certificate** that can be shared on LinkedIn, résumés, and professional profiles.

## 16. How can I contact GAICC for support?

### **Global AI Certification Council (GAICC)**

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