



Global AI
Certification Council



ISO/IEC 42001

LEAD IMPLEMENTER CERTIFICATION

Examination Content Outline
October 2025

Global AI Certification Council
(GAICC)

Examination Content Outline

GAICC ISO/IEC 42001 Lead Implementer · October 2025

Standard: ISO/IEC 42001:2023 — Artificial Intelligence Management Systems
Developed in alignment with ISO/IEC 17024

The Credential at a Glance

60 questions

90 minutes · Examination

32 hours

Structured LI training

40 CPDs

Every 3 years · Renewal

Credential	GAICC ISO/IEC 42001 Lead Implementer (LI)
Issued by	Global AI Certification Council (GAICC)
Standard	ISO/IEC 42001:2023 — Artificial Intelligence Management Systems (AIMS)
Examination	60 questions (55 scored + 5 pre-test) 90 minutes 70% pass mark
Focus	Design, implementation, operation and maintenance of an AIMS
Validity	3 years 40 CPD hours per cycle
Contact	support@gaicc.org www.gaicc.org

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1 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 (LI).

This certification validates a practitioner's competence to design, implement, operate, and maintain 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 organisation's 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 real-world responsibilities of AI-governance professionals across industries and jurisdictions.

This Examination Content Outline (ECO) defines:

- 01 The domains of competence required of a certified Lead Implementer
- 02 The tasks and enabling activities that demonstrate capability within each domain
- 03 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 this ECO and is referenced to authoritative sources, including ISO/IEC 42001, GAICC Guidance Documents, and relevant ISO companion standards such as ISO 9001, ISO/IEC 27001 and ISO/IEC 27701.

2 Exam Content Outline

The GAICC ISO/IEC 42001 Lead Implementer (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 key responsibilities expected of a Lead Implementer — and associated **enablers**, which illustrate the knowledge, behaviours, and artefacts demonstrating capability.

Domains and Weightings

Domain	Description	Weight
I. Governance and Leadership in AI Management Systems	Establishing AIMS scope, governance structures, roles, and policy direction aligned with organisational strategy and ISO/IEC 42001 requirements.	25%
II. Implementation and Operational Control of the AIMS	Executing the implementation plan — performing AI-risk and impact assessments, establishing data-governance and lifecycle-control mechanisms, and maintaining documented procedures.	40%
III. Performance, Audit Readiness and Continual Improvement	Monitoring AIMS performance, addressing non-conformities, conducting internal audits, and supporting certification readiness.	20%
IV. Ethics, Transparency and External Engagement	Embedding responsible-AI principles, promoting explainability and transparency, and maintaining constructive stakeholder communication.	15%
Total		100%

3 Domains, Tasks and Enablers

In the 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, behaviours, or actions that demonstrate these competencies in practice.

Enablers are illustrative, not exhaustive, allowing flexibility across industries and organisational sizes.

Domains I and II

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.

Domains III and IV

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 examination tests three cognitive levels across all domains, reflecting the skills required to design, implement, operate, and maintain an AIMS in accordance with ISO/IEC 42001.

Cognitive Level	What is assessed
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.

Each examination item maps to one or more of these levels to ensure a balanced measurement of theoretical knowledge, practical auditing ability, and critical reasoning.

4 Application & Payment

Eligibility Requirements

To qualify for the GAICC ISO/IEC 42001 Lead Implementer (LI), candidates must demonstrate suitable education, professional experience, and structured training aligned with the competencies required to plan, conduct, and report audits of an AIMS.

Educational Background	Recommended Professional Experience	Formal Training Requirement
Diploma or equivalent	Minimum three (3) years of relevant professional experience in AI governance, ISO-based management systems, data governance, or digital risk management.	Completion of at least 32 contact hours of structured ISO/IEC 42001 implementation training delivered by GAICC-authorized providers or equivalent recognised institutions. Students can also fulfil this requirement by completing GAICC self-paced courses.
Bachelor's degree or higher	Minimum one (1) year of relevant experience in AI governance, risk management, or ISO-based framework implementation.	Completion of at least 32 contact hours of structured ISO/IEC 42001 implementation training delivered by GAICC-authorized providers or equivalent recognised institutions. Students can also fulfil this requirement by completing GAICC self-paced courses.

Additional Notes

- Experience must 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 equivalent recognised institutions offering courses mapped to ISO/IEC 42001 competencies.
- Individuals holding the GAICC ISO/IEC 42001 Foundation Certification automatically meet the training requirement and are eligible to attempt the Lead Implementer examination directly.

How to Record Your Experience and Education on the Application

Candidates must record their professional experience using the GAICC Online Certification Portal, providing the following details:

- Name of organisation or client.
- Role title and key responsibilities.
- Project or programme description (e.g. AIMS policy design, AI-SIA assessment, audit preparation).
- Start and end dates of engagement.

Training-completion certificates must be uploaded along with the application. Academic study or research work is valuable background but does not substitute for professional auditing or evaluation experience.

Recording the Duration of Experience

Experience is measured in months, not by number of audits or projects. If two engagements overlap, the shared months are counted once. **Example:** January–June of AIMS-audit work equals six months of experience, even if multiple clients or systems were audited concurrently. Applicants should describe each engagement separately, clearly outlining audit scope, role, and responsibilities, and ensure all dates and descriptions are accurate and verifiable.

Application Processing

- GAICC strives to process applications promptly and transparently.
- Average processing time for complete online submissions is five (5) calendar days.
- Applications selected for audit or verification may require additional time to confirm training and experience documentation.
- Candidates will be notified by email once the application is approved or if further information is required.

5 Examination Information

The GAICC ISO/IEC 42001 Lead Implementer (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 AIMS — from planning and implementation through performance monitoring and continual improvement.

The examination measures both technical knowledge of AIMS governance and the practical skills required to evaluate conformity, effectiveness, and ethical alignment of AI-governance systems within diverse organisational contexts.

Exam Structure

Component	Description
Total Questions	60 questions (55 scored + 5 unscored pre-test items).
Format	Multiple-choice and scenario-based questions delivered through the GAICC Online Testing Platform.
Allotted Time	90 minutes (1.5 hours).
Pre-Exam Tutorial & Post-Exam Survey	A brief tutorial precedes the exam and an optional survey follows it. Neither counts toward the official exam time.

Exam Delivery

The LA examination is available through online AI-proctored or centre-based testing. All questions are presented in random order; once a section is submitted, answers cannot be revisited. The platform includes a built-in timer and progress bar, flag-for-review functionality, and automated submission upon time expiry.

Scoring and Results

- Each scored question is worth one (1) mark.
- Results are reported immediately upon completion of the exam.
- Feedback is provided by domain (Governance, Implementation, Performance, and Ethics).
- A minimum scaled score of 70% is required to pass.
- Scores are verified through GAICC's psychometric calibration process to maintain fairness and comparability across testing sessions.

Retake Policy

Each candidate receives one complimentary retake within the one-year eligibility period if the first attempt is unsuccessful. Additional retakes may be scheduled at a discounted re-examination fee, and retake scheduling must occur within the original eligibility window.

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 examination within this timeframe, the application expires and a new application must be submitted.

Additional Information

GAICC regularly performs psychometric reviews of the examination to ensure validity, reliability, and fairness. Any exam session affected by confirmed technical errors or system irregularities will entitle the candidate to a free re-examination without penalty.

6 Fees

Examination, membership and renewal fees are published in the applicable GAICC Candidate Handbook and on the GAICC website (www.gaicc.org). To maintain a single source of truth, fee amounts are not reproduced in this Examination Content Outline.

7 Certification Maintenance and Renewal

Certification Validity

The GAICC ISO/IEC 42001 Lead Implementer (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, candidates must earn and record a minimum of 40 CPD hours, distributed across the following categories:

CPD Category	Description	Minimum
1. Professional Learning	Participation in GAICC-recognised training, webinars, or workshops on AI management systems, governance, ethics, data privacy, or related ISO standards.	15 hours
2. Practical Application	Direct involvement in implementing, maintaining, or auditing AI management systems; conducting AI risk assessments; or supporting AIMS operations.	15 hours
3. Contribution & Knowledge Sharing	Mentoring, publishing, presenting, or contributing to AI governance communities, research, or standards development.	5 hours
4. Elective Activities	Additional professional-development or community-learning activities supporting continuous growth.	5 hours
Total	Minimum required over three years	40 CPDs

Renewal Process

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

Lapsed Certifications, Audit and Verification

- 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.
- GAICC conducts periodic CPD audits; candidates selected must submit supporting documentation such as certificates of completion, attendance records, publications, or attestation letters.

8 Code of Conduct and Ethics Statement

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 development, deployment, and governance of AI systems.

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

Principle	Obligation
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.

9 Frequently Asked Questions

What is the GAICC ISO/IEC 42001 Lead Implementer certification?

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

Who should apply for this certification?

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

What are the eligibility requirements?

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 of structured ISO/IEC 42001 implementation training delivered by GAICC-authorized providers or equivalent recognised institutions. Students can also fulfil this requirement by completing GAICC self-paced courses.

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.

What is the passing score?

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

How often can I take the exam?

Each candidate receives one complimentary retake within a one-year eligibility period if the first attempt is unsuccessful. Additional retakes can be scheduled at a discounted fee within the same eligibility window.

What is the certification validity period?

The certification remains valid for three (3) years from the date of issue.

How do I maintain or renew my certification?

Certified professionals must complete a minimum of 40 Continuing Professional Development (CPD) hours over the three-year cycle and submit a renewal application along with the applicable renewal fee.

9 Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

What does the exam cover?

Four domains: Governance and Leadership in AI Management Systems; Implementation and Operational Control of the AIMS; Performance, Audit Readiness and Continual Improvement; and Ethics, Transparency and External Engagement.

What is the exam format?

Multiple-choice and scenario-based questions, delivered through the GAICC Online AI-Proctored Testing Platform, ensuring secure and flexible access worldwide.

How much does the exam cost, and how much is the membership fee?

Current examination and membership fees are published in the applicable GAICC Candidate Handbook and at www.gaicc.org.

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.

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.

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.

How can I contact GAICC for support?

Global AI Certification Council (GAICC), Level 3, 21 Putney Way, Manukau, Auckland 2104, New Zealand. Email: support@gaicc.org · Website: www.gaicc.org



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ISO/IEC 42001

LEAD IMPLEMENTER CERTIFICATION

Competence to design, implement, operate and maintain an
Artificial Intelligence Management System under ISO/IEC 42001.

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