

INTERNATIONAL CONFORMITY ACCREDITATION SERVICES



ICAS

ICAS- INTERNATIONAL CONFORMITY ACCREDITATION SERVICES is a private Accreditation Body, created a framework to assess, against internationally agreed standards, organizations that provide certification, testing, inspection and calibration services.

ICAS is an accredited certification body which provides International Organization for Standardization (ISO) management system certification and other management standards to organisations globally. We also provide a variety of inspection services to clients globally.

The certification process of management systems according to international standards is our Company's core business. Our aim is at providing companies and the public sector with a consistently increasing range of standards, and a top level expertise and advice, across the various stages of the certification process.

1. Accreditation: what is it?

- What is an accreditation? It is an attestation granted by a third party related to a body for conformity assessment, such as a laboratory, an inspection or a certification body.
- This certificate is granted by an accreditation body after a thorough assessment based on internationally recognized requirements; it conveys the formal demonstration of the competence of the organization to carry out specific tasks relating to conformity assessment.
- Laboratories, inspection and certification bodies may, through accreditation, provide evidence of their technical abilities, but also of their independence and impartiality.

2. Accreditation: why?

- The economic structures are subject to a dynamic evolution forced by the trade internationalisation. Moreover, products and services must meet regulated requirements which aim at guaranteeing their use in full safety.
- It is essential to gain the confidence in the conformity of products and services both of the economic actors and of the authorities in charge of the market control.
- The conformity is attested on documents joined to the products and are issued by conformity assessment bodies (laboratories, inspection and certification bodies). A product or service accompanied by a report issued by an accredited body inspires increased confidence as to conformity with the laid down specifications, which facilitates market access.
- It is obvious that accreditation is an instrument favouring free circulation of products and services. It contributes to eliminate technical barriers, to allow fair competition and to achieve harmonization in trade agreements.

3. Benefits of Accreditation

Competence, Independence, International knowledge, Professionalism

- Prove your competence to customers
- Increase the opportunities for improvement
- Obtain an endorsement of independence, integrity and technical competence
- Use accreditation as a marketing tool
- Strengthen your reputation of professionalism
- Save costs by improving the management and technical systems in an effective and efficient way

4. Accreditation from ICAS:
WHY?

Accreditation ICAS (INTERNATIONAL CONFORMITY ACCREDITATION SERVICES)lets to reduces risks, increases confidence to the purchaser for business and its customers by assuring them that the accredited conformity assessment bodies are competent to carry out the work they undertake within their scope of approval and for cross border trade internationally which results in promoting global acceptance.

5. WHO CAN GET
ACCREDITED?

Organizations can be accredited to carry out a defined conformity assessment activity, such as:

- Testing
- Calibration
- Inspection

Certification of:

- Persons
- Products, services or process
- Management systems
 - Environmental
 - Energy
 - Quality
 - Food safety
 - Occupational health and safety
 - Information security

6. How to get accredited by
ICAS?

Accrediting for a particular conformity assessment body is not stipulated mandatory to certify into only sector, the certification could be into various sectors such as inspection, quality management system certification, personnel certification, product certification, as per standards stipulated by international organization for standards.

What is ICAS?

ICAS operates in accordance with the requirements, criteria, rules and regulations laid down in the following documents.

- The requirements of the international standard ISO/IEC 17011, General requirements for bodies providing assessments and accreditation of conformity assessment bodies.
- The requirements and other benchmarks as stipulated in the Publicly Available Documents (PAD) published by various international bodies and ICAS.
- Legally established objects as per Memorandum & Articles of Association with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

7. ICAS functions?

- QMS ISO 9001
- EMS ISO 14001
- OHSAS 18001
- MD-QMS ISO 13485
- FSMS ISO 22000
- ISMS ISO 27001
- ITSMS ISO 20000
- SMSSC ISO 28000
- ISO 15189
- ISO 17020
- ISO 17024
- ISO 17025
- ISO GUIDE 65

8. What is ACCREDITATION PROCESS?

- ENQUIRY

Applicable and relevant information sent out from ICAS

- APPLICATION

A completed application form, quality manual, fee and supporting documentation is submitted by the applying organization.

- PRE-ASSESSMENT

An initial review of the documentation and a feedback session between the organization and assessment team

- ASSESSMENT

An assessment of compliance of the organization to the applicable standard(s), ICAS requirements and other mandatory documents, encompassing quality system and technical competence

- CORECTIVE ACTIONS

Clearance of non-compliances when the assessment teams accepts the corrective actions put in place by the organization

- RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MANAGEMENT OF ICAS

The assessment team makes a recommendation to the management of ICAS to grant accreditation.

- ACCREDITATION

Organization gets accredited. The organization receives a certificate, the accreditation logo and the scope of accreditation.

- SURVEILLANCE

Initially six months after the award of accreditation and thereafter annually to ensure continued compliance with the standard(s)

- RE-ASSISTANCE

This is carried out every 4-5 years. All information received as part of the accreditation process is treated in the strictest confidence.

9. LABORATORY ACCREDITATION:

ICAS shows that the system of healthcare facility has reached standard required to carry out prescribed function.

It is open to any laboratory performing testing and/or calibration. The scheme is effective in all areas of objectives testing and calibration such as in chemistry, mechanics, electricity, metrology, construction, medicine and biology, even involved in accrediting laboratories from the public sector, private enterprise, state agencies, regulatory bodies and with research & development and/or manufacturing environments.

Criteria:

The laboratory is assessed for compliance with the international standards, ISO/IEC 17045 or ISO 15189. This includes assessment system and the technical competence of the laboratory to perform the tests applicable to its scope of accreditation.

Essential requirements which must be fulfilled are:

- A documented quality management system and quality manual.
- An organized functional structure with clearly defined technical and quality responsibilities.
- Impartiality, integrity, and independence.
- Technically competent personnel.
- Calibrated equipment.
- Traceable measurement.
- Uncertainty of measurement for all tests and/ or calibrations.
- Participation in and achievement of satisfactory results in proficiency testing or inter-laboratory comparison scheme applicable to the scope of accreditation.
- Technically valid procedures

Accreditation calibration requires traceability of measuring values to international standards. Calibration is essential for production processes and constitutes the measurements basis for tests laboratories and many inspection and certification activities.

SCOPE OF ACCREDITATION:

- The purposes of this International Standard, CABs are organizations providing the conformity assessment services: testing, inspection, management system certification, personnel certification, product certification and, in the context of this International Standard, calibration. It is also appropriate as a requirements document for the peer evaluation process for mutual recognition arrangements between accreditation bodies.

10. **ACCREDITATION OF CERTIFICATION BODIES:**

- The International Commission for Accreditation Bodies accredits certification bodies operating management system, product and personnel certification.
- Accreditation involves the assessment of the competence of the certification body and its management system. Assessment visits to the certification body and sub offices are performed in order to evaluate how its functions are performed in practice. Part of the assessment includes ICAS's top management witnessing the certification body performing audits.

11. **MANAGEMENT SYSTEM CERTIFICATION:**

This is a procedure by which a third party certifies that the management system conforms to specified requirements. This includes Quality Management System, Environmental Management System, Information Security Management System, Food and Safety Management System. Conforming with the standards of international regulatory manuals.

12. **CERTIFICATION OF PERSONS:**

Personnel Certification is a means of providing assurance that a named person is competent to perform a specific activity such as a person competent in the field of his own work such as a watch mechanic is precise and accurate in assembling and maintaining the systems of that minute machinery. Certification bodies for personnel confirm the competence of a named individual to perform specified services or duties, by issuing a certificate of competence.

13. **PRODUCT CERTIFICATION:**

Certification of a product (a term including process or service) is a means of providing assurance that the product complies with specified standards and/or other normative documents. Certification Bodies providing product certification issue product certificates or licenses to organisations entitling them to display a mark of conformity on their product or issue a certificate indicating their product's conformity with specific requirements, includes food certification.

14. **ACCREDITED MEMBERS:**

- Accreditation is chosen by an organization because of the competitive advantages it affords, through access to a given market via independent assessment and demonstration of compliance with international requirements.
- Accreditation is objective proof that organizations have the competence to comply with best practice. It is the internationally recognized system that is used to develop and sustain high standard of performance. It is often a prerequisite for eligibility to tender for international projects.

GLOSSARY

● Accreditation:

Third-party attestation related to a conformity assessment body conveying formal demonstration of its competence to carry out specific conformity assessment tasks

● Accreditation body:

Authoritative body that performs accreditation body logo used by an accreditation body to identify itself

● Accreditation certificate:

Formal document or a set of documents, stating that accreditation has been granted for the defined scope.

● Accreditation symbol:

Symbol issued by an accreditation body to be used by accredited CABs to indicate their accredited status.

● Appeal:

Request by a CAB for reconsideration of any adverse decision made by the accreditation body related to its desired accreditation status

● Assessment:

Process undertaken by an accreditation body to assess the competence of a CAB, based on particular standard(s) and/or other normative documents and for a defined scope of accreditation

● Assessor:

Person assigned by an accreditation body to perform, alone or as part of an assessment team, an assessment of a CAB

● Complaint:

Expression of dissatisfaction, other than appeal, by any person or organization, to an accreditation body, relating to the activities of that accreditation body or of an accredited CAB, where a response is expected

● Conformity Assessment Body:

CAB body that performs conformity assessment services and that can be the object of accreditation

● Consultancy:

Participation in any of the activities of a CAB subject to accreditation

● Extending accreditation:

Process of enlarging the scope of accreditation

- Expert:

Person assigned by an accreditation body to provide specific knowledge or expertise with respect to the scope of accreditation to be assessed

- Interested parties:

Parties with a direct or indirect interest in accreditation

- Lead assessor:

Assessor who is given the overall responsibility for specified assessment activities

- Reducing accreditation:

Process of cancelling accreditation for part of the scope of accreditation

- Scope of accreditation:

Specific conformity assessment services for which accreditation is sought or has been granted

- Surveillance:

Set of activities, except reassessment, to monitor the continued fulfilment by accredited CABs of requirements for accreditation

- Suspending accreditation:

Process of temporarily making accreditation invalid, in full or for part of the scope of accreditation

- Withdrawing accreditation:

Process of cancelling accreditation in full

- Witnessing:

Observation of the CAB carrying out conformity assessment services within its scope of accreditation