

ACCREDITATION INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION:

Accreditation is the process by which an authoritative body like the Mauritius Accreditation Service (MAURITAS) gives formal recognition that a conformity assessment body, CAB (i.e. testing/ calibration laboratory, certification body and inspection body) has the technical competence for performing conformity assessment activities.

ACCREDITATION PROCESS:

PREPARATION OF THE CAB

Any Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) wishing to be accredited must prepare a quality manual including all quality procedures as required by the relevant international standard.

The applicable accreditation standard is as listed below:-

Accreditation Programmes	Accreditation Standards	Mandatory Documents		
Calibration/Testing Laboratories	ISO/IEC 17025	ILAC P4 ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement: Policy and Management		
		ILAC P5 ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (Arrangement)		
		ILAC P8 ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (Arrangement): Supplementary Requirements and Guidelines for the Use of Accreditation Symbols and for Claims of Accreditation Status by Accredited Laboratories and Inspection Bodies		
		ILAC P9 ILAC Policy for Participation in Proficiency Testing Activities		
		ILAC P10 ILAC Policy on Traceability of Measurement Results		
		ILAC P14 ILAC Policy for Uncertainty in Calibration		
		ILAC G7 Accreditation Requirements and Operation Criteria for Horseracing Laboratories		
		AFRAC TP001-01 Accreditation of National Metrology Institute by AFRAC Accreditation Bodies		
		Medical Laboratories	Testing ISO 15189	ILAC P4 ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement: Policy and Management
				ILAC P5 ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (Arrangement)
ILAC P8 ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (Arrangement): Supplementary Requirements				

		and Guidelines for the Use of Accreditation Symbols and for Claims of Accreditation Status by Accredited Laboratories and Inspection Bodies ILAC P9 ILAC Policy for Participation in Proficiency Testing Activities ILAC P10 ILAC Policy on Traceability of Measurement Results ILAC P14 ILAC Policy for Uncertainty in Calibration
Certification Bodies (Management systems)	ISO/IEC 17021	IAF MD 1 Certification of Multiple Sites Based on Sampling IAF MD 2 Transfer of Accredited Certification of Management Systems IAF MD 5 Duration of QMS and EMS Audits IAF MD 7 Harmonization of Sanctions to be applied to Conformity Assessment Bodies IAF MD 10 Assessment of Certification Body Management of Competence in Accordance with ISO/IEC 17021: 2011
Competence Requirements:		
-ISO/TS 22003 (FSMS and HACCP)		
-ISO/IEC TS 17021-3 (QMS)		
-ISO/IEC 17021-2 (EMS)		
-ISO/IEC 27006 (ISMS)		
		IAF MD 12 Accreditation Assessment of Conformity Assessment Bodies with Activities in Multiple Countries
		IAF MD 13 Knowledge Requirements for Accreditation Body Personnel for Information Security Management Systems (ISO/IEC 27001)
		IAF MD15 Collection of Data to Provide Indicators of Management System Certification Bodies' Performance
		IAF MD16 Application of ISO/IEC 17011 for the Accreditation of Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS) Certification Bodies
		IAF MD17 Witnessing Activities for the Accreditation of Management Systems Certification Bodies
		IAF MD20 General Competence of AB Assessors
Certification Bodies (Persons Certification)	ISO/IEC 17024	
Certification Bodies (Product Certification)	ISO/IEC 17065	
Inspection Bodies	ISO/IEC 17020	

A toolkit for assisting CABs in the preparation towards accreditation is available under the following link:

<http://www.sadca.org/CABT/library/051.html>

APPLICATION

Once the CAB has prepared all the documentation, it shall then fill the appropriate application form(as listed below) and submit same with the Quality Manual and Procedures and paying the respective application fee:

- Application form for Non-Medical Laboratories, F3.15
(<http://www.mauritas.org/files/Application%20Form%20for%20Non-Medical%20Laboratories.pdf>)
- Application Form for Medical Laboratories, F3.16
(<http://www.mauritas.org/files/Application%20Form%20for%20Medical%20Laboratories.pdf>)
- Application Form for Accreditation as Certification Bodies, F4.01
(<http://www.mauritas.org/files/Application%20Form%20for%20Certification%20Bodies.pdf>)

It is to be noted that upon application, Medical Laboratories also need to submit a duly filled Self-Assessment Report, F3.19, available on <http://www.mauritas.org/logo.php> .

FEES APPLICABLE

Along with the application form, the CAB needs to submit the relevant application fees. Details of the application fees can be obtained from the following links:

- [Mauritius Accreditation Service \(Certification Body Accreditation Fees\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013](#)
- [Mauritius Accreditation Service \(Laboratory Accreditation Fees\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013](#)

GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

The CAB is also encouraged to consult all guidance documents available from MAURITAS:

- G1 – MAURITAS Assessments – A Guide for Laboratories,
(<http://www.mauritas.org/files/G1.pdf>)
- G3 – Guidance to certification bodies applying for accreditation,

<http://www.mauritas.org/files/G3.pdf>

- G5 – MAURITAS Fees – A Guide for Laboratories

<http://www.mauritas.org/files/G5.pdf>

- G7 - MAURITAS Fees – A Guide for Certification Bodies

<http://www.mauritas.org/files/G7.pdf>

HANDLING OF APPLICATION

On receipt of the Application Form, Fee and Quality Manual, MAURITAS follows the steps as described in the Accreditation Process for laboratories (http://www.mauritas.org/accreditation_process.php) or for certification bodies (http://www.mauritas.org/accreditation_process2.php), before granting Accreditation.

RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF CABS

Once accreditation has been granted to a CAB, MAURITAS will proceed with the signature of the Contract Agreement binding both parties which includes a commitment by the CAB to continually fulfil all the requirements of the MAURITAS accreditation.

All the requirements to be complied with by CABS are included in the MAURITAS R series documents.

Accredited CABS have the right to complain against MAURITAS' decisions or activities. They also have the right to object to the appointment of the nominated Lead Assessor, Technical Assessor or Technical Expert. Valid reasons for such objection have to be provided in writing. In such cases, MAURITAS will endeavor to offer an alternative.

All applicants are expected to comply with all regulations after they have applied for accreditation.

HANDLING OF COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

All complaints or dispute received by MAURITAS have to be justified and then processed without undue delay. The MAURITAS staff members will investigate the complaints and disputes and will report the findings to the Director of MAURITAS who will inform the organizations concerned.

In some cases, there might be a need to establish a ‘Complaint Working Group’ for ensuring impartiality, independence and technical knowledge.

Complaints are only accepted if they are relevant to MAURITAS or to the accredited activities of a MAURITAS accredited body.

Appeals against MAURITAS’ decision are treated following the provisions of Section 12 of the MAURITAS Act (<http://www.mauritas.org/files/MauritasAct.pdf>).

RELATED BODIES

MAURITAS has been established as a department within the Ministry responsible for the subject of Industry. The Conformity Assessment Bodies accredited by MAURITAS come from both the public and private sectors. In addition, there are Conformity Assessment Bodies operating as departments and parastatal bodies under the Ministry of Industry. In order to safeguard impartiality, MAURITAS has identified, analysed and documented its relationship with related bodies and the measures proposed to mitigate associated risks.

Related Body	Type	Relationship	Risk	Risk Elimination
1. Assay Office	Government	Reports to the	Perceived preferential treatment	To Ensure a Fully Independent Accreditation Committee
2. Legal Metrology Service	Laboratories and Inspection Bodies	same Top Management as MAURITAS	Perceived preferential treatment	
3. Mauritius Standards Bureau (MSB)	Parastatal Laboratory, Inspection Body and Certification Body	Governed by a Board appointed by the same Top Management as MAURITAS	Perceived preferential treatment	
4. Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute	Parastatal Laboratory	Governed by a Board appointed by Parent Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security	No perceived preferential treatment	
5. Agricultural Research and Extension Unit	Parastatal Laboratory	Governed by a Board appointed by Parent Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security	No Perceived preferential treatment	
6. National Environment Laboratory	Government Department	Funds allocated by the same Central Government	Interference/Pressure with accreditation	

				process and decision making
7. Wastewater Laboratory	Parastatal Laboratory	Governed by a Board appointed by Parent Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities	No Perceived preferential treatment	To Ensure a Fully Independent Accreditation Committee
8. Forensic Science laboratory	Government Department	Funds allocated by the same Central Government	Interference/Pressure with accreditation process and decision making	
9. Central Water Authority	Parastatal Laboratory	Governed by a Board appointed by Parent Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities	No Perceived preferential treatment	
10. Food Technology Laboratory	Government Department	Funds allocated by the same Central Government	Interference/Pressure with accreditation process and decision making	
11. Albion Fisheries Research Centre	Government Department	Funds allocated by the same Central Government	Interference/Pressure with accreditation process and decision making	
12. Government Analyst Division	Government Department	Funds allocated by the same Central Government	Interference/Pressure with accreditation process and decision making	
13. Central Health Laboratory	Government Department	Funds allocated by the same Central Government	Interference/Pressure with accreditation process and decision making	

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

MAURITAS operates under a Vote Item of the Line Budget of the Ministry of Industry which is adopted by the National Assembly every year. Also, financial resources are derived from funding received from development partners. As such, MAURITAS operates under certain limitations including financial and human resources.