



MAURITAS

P14

Procedure for ‘joint accreditation’ with
foreign Accreditation Bodies

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Foreword

The MAURITIUS ACCREDITATION SERVICE (MAURITAS) is a governmental body established in 1998 to provide a national, unified service for the accreditation of Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) such as calibration/testing laboratories, certification bodies and inspection bodies. Organizations that comply with the MAURITAS requirements are granted accreditation by MAURITAS.

About MAURITAS publications

MAURITAS publications are categorized as follows:

- R series Publications containing general policy and requirements related to MAURITAS accreditation.
- G series Publications providing guidance on MAURITAS requirements.
- A series Publications related to assessment procedures.
- P series MAURITAS quality system procedures
- F series MAURITAS Forms
- Directories Classified listing of accredited organizations.

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Procedure for ‘joint accreditation’ with foreign Accreditation Bodies

1. Purpose

1.1 This procedure shall consider the approach that needs to be followed in handling applications for joint accreditation of CABs by MAURITAS and foreign Accreditation Bodies.

2. Scope and Responsibilities

2.1 This procedure is used by MAURITAS for joint accreditation of CABs. It is the responsibility of all MAURITAS staff to adhere to this procedure for processing any application, maintenance, extension of scope and renewal of joint accreditation.

3. Reference

3.1 MAURITAS A Series documents

3.2 MAURITAS R Series documents

3.3 ILAC G21 : Cross Frontier Accreditation – Principles for Cooperation

3.4 IAF MD 12 : Accreditation Assessment of Conformity Assessment Bodies with Activities in Multiple Countries

3.5 ISO/IEC 17025 : General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories

3.6 ISO/IEC 17021-1 : Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems

3.7 ISO 15189 : Medical Laboratories – Particular requirements for quality and competence

3.8 ISO/IEC 17020 : Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection.

4. Definition

4.1 Joint accreditation

Joint accreditation is accreditation provided by MAURITAS together with a foreign Accreditation Body to particular CABs.

5. Procedure

5.1 MAURITAS follows the procedures MAURITAS A8, A9, A18 and A19 when handling the applications for initial assessment; assessment, extension of scope and re-assessment for accredited CABs. The foreign Accreditation Body follows its own accreditation procedure. The accreditation process followed by MAURITAS is described below:

Initial Accreditation

- Processing of application – (**separately**)
- Document review – (**separately**)
- Preliminary visit (optional) – (**jointly**)
- Preparation and planning for the initial assessment– (**jointly**)
- Initial assessment– (**jointly**)
- Witnessing– (**jointly**)
- Reporting on the assessment and the writing of nonconformities (if any) – (**jointly**)
- Presenting the recommendation– (**jointly**)
- Reviewing of corrective actions (if any) – (**jointly**)
- Decision on accreditation– (**separately**)
- Granting of accreditation certificate– (**separately**)

Maintaining Accreditation

- Preparation and planning for post assessment activities – (**jointly**)
- Assessment and re-assessment or extension of scope – (**jointly**)
- Reporting on the assessment and the writing of nonconformities (if any) – (**jointly**)
- Presenting the recommendation– (**jointly**)
- Reviewing of corrective actions (if any) – (**jointly**)
- Decision on maintenance of accreditation– (**separately**)
- Decision on extension of scope – (**separately**)
- Decision on renewal of accreditation – (**separately**)

5.2 Additionally, MAURITAS is in constant communication with the foreign Accreditation Body with regards to the review of the application, the review of documents and planning for the assessment of the CAB.

5.3 Both MAURITAS and the foreign Accreditation Body process requests of the applicant/accredited CAB in parallel.

5.4 MAURITAS ensures that a joint assessment is carried out for the initial assessment, assessment, extension of scope and re-assessment by an assessment team comprising assessors/technical experts from MAURITAS and the foreign Accreditation Body. MAURITAS verifies the qualifications of the assessment team members from the foreign Accreditation Body if the latter is not signatory to the ILAC MRA or IAF MLA. At the closing meeting the assessment team makes a joint recommendation to the CAB.

5.5 The variation permit procedure is followed if the joint assessment is carried out at a time different from that planned by MAURITAS so that it is cost effective for the CABs.

5.6 Both MAURITAS and the foreign Accreditation Body take the separate decision regarding accreditation. All decisions may be communicated to the CAB through MAURITAS.

5.7 All relevant records of implementation of the above procedure are kept by MAURITAS in file and by foreign Accreditation Body.

6. Related Forms