

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE NEW INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ISO/IEC 17025:2017 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COMPETENCE OF TESTING AND CALIBRATION LABORATORIES

INTRODUCTION:

The Mauritius Accreditation Service (MAURITAS) is the sole national accreditation body and has been established under the Mauritius Accreditation Service Act 1998 (please refer to attachment) as a department within the Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives (Industrial Development Division) to provide a national, unified service for the accreditation of calibration and testing laboratories, inspection bodies and certification bodies.

MAURITAS has accredited twenty-four (24) laboratories against the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025:2005 General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories.

In **November 2017**, the new edition of ISO/IEC 17025 was published by the International Standards Organisation (ISO).

BACKGROUND:

The new international standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017 General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories was published on **30 November 2017**. This third edition of the standard cancels and replaces the second edition ISO/IEC 17025:2005.

On **04 November 2016**, the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) agreed on a resolution on the transition period for the implementation of ISO/IEC 17025:2017. The resolution is as follows:

ILAC Resolution GA 20.15

“As the revised version of ISO/IEC 17025 is scheduled for publication in 2017, the General Assembly endorses the recommendation of the AIC that a transition period of 3 years from the date of publication be adopted.

At the end of the transition period, accreditation of a laboratory to ISO/IEC 17025:2005 will not be recognized under the ILAC Arrangement.”

Following the COVID-19 outbreak, the transition period for ISO/IEC 17025:2017 has been extended from **30 November 2020** to **01 June 2021**. This extension to the transition period has been adopted due to the global impact of the COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent health and safety measures implemented by most economies. The extension will ensure all accreditation

bodies and the accredited laboratories are able to achieve the remaining transitions in a robust manner.

PROPOSED ACTIONS:

Based on the international standard requirements, MAURITAS has elaborated the following course of action:

- From **01 December 2017** to **01 February 2019**, all new applications for accreditation in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025:2005 shall be accompanied with a transition plan towards ISO/IEC 17025:2017.
- As from **02 February 2019**, all new applications for accreditation in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025 submitted to MAURITAS shall be based on ISO/IEC 17025:2017.
- As from **02 February 2019**, MAURITAS will start assessing against the new ISO/IEC 17025:2017.
- From **02 February 2019** to **30 November 2019**, MAURITAS will continue to undertake assessments of accredited laboratories against the old version of the standard ISO/IEC 17025:2005 unless the laboratory requests that the assessment be against the new standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017. During this period, initial assessments will only be performed against the new standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017.
- As from **01 December 2019**, all assessments shall be conducted against the new standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017.
- As from **01 December 2019**, MAURITAS will not grant any accreditations with respect to the standard ISO/IEC 17025:2005.
- Accredited laboratories shall provide MAURITAS with a transition plan before **31 March 2018**.
- Laboratories whose applications are progressing through the accreditation process shall provide MAURITAS with a transition plan before **31 May 2018**.

- It is to be noted that for accredited laboratories, the certificate of accreditation will be updated to the new standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017 subject to the following:
 - ✓ Submission of the transition plan as per deadline;
 - ✓ MAURITAS performs an assessment (surveillance, re-assessment, extra-ordinary visit) whereby the transition to the new standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017 will be verified; The last date for performance of such assessment shall be **01 December 2020**.
 - ✓ Approval of the updating of the certificate of accreditation to the new standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017 by the Accreditation Committee at latest on **01 June 2021**.

- The transition will conclude on **01 June 2021** and all accredited/applicant laboratories are expected to be in compliance with the new standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017. At the end of the transition period, accreditation of a laboratory to ISO/IEC 17025:2005 will not be recognised under the ILAC Arrangement.

24 June 2020