

SADCAS/SANAS JOINT COMMUNIQUE - SADCAS ACHIEVES SIGNATORY STATUS IN ILAC MRA FOR TESTING AND CALIBRATION (ISO/IEC 17025)

During the International Laboratory Cooperation's (ILAC) General Assembly in October/November 2015, the Southern African Community Accreditation Services (SADCAS) was admitted as a signatory to the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for the scopes **Testing ISO/IEC 17025** and **Calibration (ISO/IEC 17025)**. With this achievement the SADCAS accredited testing and calibration results are now internationally recognized, thus enhance the acceptance of products across national borders and remove the need for retesting of products traded internationally.

SADCAS is recognized by the SADC Council of Ministers as a subsidiary institution of SADC. SADCAS draws its mandate from Article 15 B of the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Annex to the SADC Protocol on Trade and as per the Memorandum of Understanding signed between SADCAS and SADC, SADCAS provide accreditation services to 13 SADC Member States who do not have a national accreditation body namely; Angola; Botswana; Democratic Republic of Congo; Lesotho; Madagascar; Malawi; Mozambique; Namibia; Seychelles; Swaziland; Tanzania; Zambia and Zimbabwe.

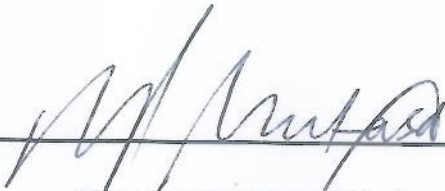
This communique serves to inform all testing and calibration laboratories about the way forward regarding accreditation following SADCAS achievement. A number of scenarios are considered as follows:

- **For all laboratories [testing and calibration (ISO/IEC 17025)] accredited under the SADCAS/SANAS Twinning Partnership Arrangement (TPA),** The South African National Accreditation System (SANAS) certificate will be valid until the upcoming surveillance assessment and thereafter SADCAS will be the sole provider of accreditation services to your facility. Your organization's listing will be removed from SANAS directory of accredited facilities and you will be required to return the SANAS accreditation certificate and schedule of accreditation and to destroy any other materials that refers to SANAS accreditation.
- **For all laboratories [testing and calibration (ISO/IEC 17025)]** whose applications are in progress and or were accredited under the SADCAS/SANAS TPA from 4 November 2015, only a SADCAS certificate will be issued.
- **For all laboratories [testing and calibration (ISO/IEC 17025)]** at the various stages of accreditation process by SANAS and which may have missed the changeover plan and may have set up the system based on the SANAS requirements, SANAS will notify them to changeover to SADCAS but continue to proceed with the application until accreditation and to changeover thereafter.

- All new applications received by SANAS from the 13 SADC Member States serviced by SADCAS shall be referred to SADCAS.
- SANAS accredited laboratories [testing and calibration (ISO/IEC 17025)] in the 13 SADC Member States serviced by SADCAS. Upon expiry of the current SANAS certificate, SANAS will no longer be legally able to provide accreditation to the said facilities. Should the said facilities wish to continue with accreditation, they shall forward their application to SADCAS. Such accredited facilities can transfer their SANAS accreditation to SADCAS prior to the expiry of the current SANAS certificate. In all these cases, should the facility's decision be to continue with accreditation then the facility shall inform SANAS at least three (3) months in advance.

SADCAS accreditation documents and application forms are available from the SADCAS website www.sadcas.org/policies_n_procedures.php or else we refer you to contact the SADCAS Technical Manager on jfranorovelo@sadcas.org for more information.

Meanwhile SADCAS is also working towards signatory status for its Testing – medical (ISO 15189), inspection bodies (ISO/IEC 17020) and certification bodies – management systems (ISO/IEC 17021-1) and certification bodies - product (ISO/IEC 17065) accreditation programmes, and such conformity assessment bodies shall continue to be processed under the SADCAS/SANAS TPA until SADCAS has achieved international recognition.



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SADCAS Chief Executive Officer



Ron Josias (Mr)
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