

## SADCAS ACCREDITS FIRST VERIFICATION LABORATORY – ESWATINI WATER SERVICES CORPORATION

SADCAS is proud to announce the accreditation of the Eswatini Water Services Corporation – Meter Verification Laboratory in the scope of verification of Volume Measuring Instruments to ISO/IEC 17025:2005 – Mechanical Water Meters. This makes Eswatini Water Services Corporation – Meter Verification Laboratory the first verification laboratory to be accredited by SADCAS. Through this accreditation, Eswatini Water Services Corporation – Meter Verification Laboratory has been granted the unique accreditation number **VER-1 001** (Volume Measuring Instruments), indicating that Eswatini Water Services Corporation - Verification Laboratory is now a SADCAS accredited verification laboratory. The Laboratory is situated at Plot 237, King Mswati III Avenue, Matsapha, Eswatini, and operates in the regulatory domain under the Metrology Act 1991 (Act No. 12 of 1991), Type Approval Certificate No. 36, issued by the Kingdom of Eswatini, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade, Weights and Measures Department. The certificate which was issued on 15 October 2019 expires on 30 November 2020 the deadline for transitioning to ISO/IEC 17025: 2017.



The Legal Metrology Accreditation Scheme (LMAS) was established by SADCAS in February 2018 in the scopes of Mass, Volume and Length, and is currently operated in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025 *General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories*. Verification laboratories provide conformity certificates to organizations for their measuring instruments that may or may not be subject to regulation, depending on whether it operates within a regulatory or voluntary domain. Third party verification is a frequently specified requirement to operate in the global market place and is common in the Legal Metrology fraternity where verification laboratories are required by law to demonstrate compliance to a standard, code of practice and/or regulatory requirements. Worldwide Verification laboratories are accredited to international standards such as ISO/IEC 17025 or ISO/IEC 17020 with additional requirements being specified by other normative documents such as the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) Recommendations and Regulations applicable to the class of measuring instruments.

Accreditation, which is an independent evaluation of verification laboratories by an authoritative body, in this case SADCAS, confirms the competence, consistency and impartiality of the verification laboratory. Throughout the world many countries now rely on accreditation as a means of independently evaluating competence of verification laboratories. There are many reasons why the services of an accredited verification laboratory should be used:

- Gain access to international market. The SADCAS LMAS is operated in accordance with ISO/IEC 17011:2017 and is internationally recognized following SADCAS' achievement of signatory status to International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation's Mutual Recognition Arrangement (ILAC MRA) for Calibration Laboratories to ISO/IEC 17025 in November 2015. Re-evaluation by the African Cooperation in Accreditation (AFRAC) re-confirmed the signatory status in 2019.
- De – risk your procurement by taking the guesswork out of choosing a verification laboratory. Accreditation gives confidence that the service best meets requirements.
- Win new business particularly since the use of accredited conformity assessment services is increasingly a requirement in both the public and private sector.
- Control costs with the help of knowledge transfer since the accredited verification laboratory can be a good source of impartial advice.
- Demonstrate due diligence in the event of legal action.

- Reduce paperwork and increase efficiency by reducing the necessity to re audit your business.
- Assurance to the regulators, owners and users that the measuring instruments in the marketplace comply with requirements.

SADCAS is ready to receive new applications from verification laboratories for processing under the LMAS.

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