

## Communiqué on Revised Corrective Action Timelines

Following SADCAS Peer Evaluation conducted in 2017 feedback was given for SADCAS to consider reviewing the corrective action timelines for periodic on-site assessments. Peer evaluators considered the 3 months' timelines given to address nonconformities raised from periodic on-site assessments to be too long, where the facilities are expected to have systems in place and able to timely manage their processes.

In considering the feedback from peer evaluations and in its endeavour to improve its processes, SADCAS reviewed baselines for corrective action timelines for both initial assessment and periodic onsite assessments. Information gathered indicated that some conformity assessment bodies (CABs) are still not able to meet the 3 months corrective action timelines for initial assessments while for periodic on-site assessments the average time taken fall within 3 months.

In this regard SADCAS has revised the corrective action timelines for periodic on-site assessments from 3 months (90 days) to 2 months (60 days) while the corrective action timeline for initial assessments remains at 3 months (90 days).

Please note that SADCAS TG 01 – *Information for Organizations Applying for Accreditation* has been revised to address the revised timelines. SADCAS F 61(c) – *Assessment Recommendation Report* has been revised to differentiate the corrective action timelines for the different types of assessments. Reference is also made to SADCAS TG 04 – *Guidance for Addressing and Clearing Nonconformities*.

This communiqué serves to inform all **accredited CABs** to note and comply with the revised corrective action timelines for periodic on-site assessments of 2 months. All **applicant CABs** to note and comply with the corrective timeline for initial assessments of 3 months.

All **assessors** are reminded to communicate the revised corrective action timelines accordingly to the CABs during the assessments.

