World Accreditation Day Commemorations in SADC Region

June 9, marks World Accreditation Day (WAD) as a global initiative jointly established by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) to raise awareness of the importance of accreditation-related activities. The inaugural WAD was celebrated in 2008.

The theme for 2018 World Accreditation Day is “Accreditation: Delivering a Safer World”. World Accreditation Day 2018 focuses on how accreditation delivers a safer world. The expectation of safe workplaces, safe products, safe transport, safe food, in fact all aspects of our lives is universally shared. Statistics however show that the expectation is not being matched by the reality. Closing this gap is a vital consideration for government, regulators and businesses, aiming to keep people safer in their work, their domestic life, their journeys and all other parts of their lives.

This year commemoration activities in the region ranged from seminars/workshops/meetings to press releases. World Accreditation Day conferences were held in 5 countries namely: Angola, Botswana; Democratic republic of Congo (DRC); Seychelles and Swaziland. In preparation for the celebrations SADCAS provided all National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs) with a press release.

In Angola the Angolan Institute of Accreditation held a workshop at Afonso Van-Dúnem Mbinda, Edifício Kilamba, Marginal de Luanda on 14 June 2018 which was officially welcomed by the Minister of Industry and opened by the Minister of State and Chief of Staff of the President of the Republic of Angola. The objective of the workshop was to raise awareness and inform all stakeholders about the importance of the inspection services based on the relevant international standards as well as the contribution of the Public institutions involved in Fisheries and sea sector, Agriculture sector, Health sector and Industry sector aiming at optimizing the inspection activities in their respective areas to improve the quality of processes and to provide better services at all levels.

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The workshop was also an opportunity to present the importance and benefits of an accredited inspection body activities and the necessity to have a national regulation aligned with the international standard requirements. Due to the attendance of various stakeholders and local media, the workshop was a success in promoting the theme of the year “Accreditation – Delivering a Safer World”.

In Botswana the 2018 WAD was successfully commemorated on 8 June 2018 at the Maun Lodge, in the north of Botswana through a half day conference which was followed by a tour of stalls exhibition. The WAD commemoration was graced by the North West Council Secretary, Batawana Kgosikgolo-Kgosi Keatile Moremi and Mr Ramogapi Gaborekwe, the Maun District Commissioner who both presented the welcome remarks. The opening remarks were conducted by Mrs Mpho H. Ntshese, the Acting Director of Industrial Affairs, Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry.

Mr Ramogapi Gaborekwe, the Maun District Commissioner

North West Council Secretary, Batawana Kgosikgolo-Kgosi Keatile Moremi
SADCAS was represented at the WAD commemoration by Ms Jeanne Françoise Ranorovelo, the Technical Manager who presented on the Role of accreditation bodies in delivering a safer world which was followed by four more specific presentations by Mr Obed Motsomi, the Managing Director of Lamworld Technologies Pty Ltd, Gaborone who aptly articulated the role of calibration Laboratories in ensuring a credible measurement system. Then Mr Demmah Neilson Demmah of the Department of Occupational Health and Safety, Rural Administration Centre in Maun presented on the role of inspection in delivering a safer world. Mrs Olga Lepotlako from the Business Partner Laboratories Services at Botswana Meat Commission, Lobatse presented on the role of testing laboratories in delivering a safer world followed by a presentation on the role of medical laboratories in delivering a safer world by Ms. Dineo Motsoisi from the Department of Clinical Services, Ministry of Health.

The exhibitions were also arranged at the Maun Lodge. A total of nine (9) organizations had stalls to showcase their services namely: Department of Occupational Health and Safety, National Food Technology Research Centre, Botswana Meat Commission, PathView laboratories, Lamworld Technologies, Department of Water affairs-laboratory Services, Smiles Dental Clinic, Tebelopele and Betach Laboratories.
The WAD commemoration was well attended and lively discussions were noted during the conference and the exhibitions.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, 2018 World Accreditation Day (WAD) was celebrated in Kinshasa through a half-day seminar followed by visits of laboratories and a tour of stalls exhibition. The WAD celebrations was graced by Mr Jean Lucien Bussa Togba, the Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Trade who made the opening remarks followed by eight presentations. Mr Celestin Pierre Risasi Tabu, the Director General of the Office Congolais de Contrôle (OCC) explained the role and responsibilities of OCC a conformity assessment body, in building a safer world. The National Accreditation Focal Point (NAFP) – DRC Mrs Apauline Matata-Feza, outlined the services offered by SADCAS and the importance of accreditation in trade, human security and environmental protection. This was followed by presentations by Mr Nkolongo Lompinga and Mr Badi-Bakumu, the Director and the Head of Division of the Occupational Risk Prevention, Ministry of Labour respectively on on-site control of safety at workplace taking into consideration relevant regulations/standards. The Head of Technical Inspection Department at OCC, Mr Kakuji Milambwe presented a practical case of safety management on industrial site whilst Dr Kwengani Mavard, Director at the Ministry of Health presented on the prevention and protection of the population against diseases related to water quality. Presentations were also made by representatives of the public sector who presented on various aspects of water quality with Mr Sopi, the Laboratory Manager of Régideso and Mr Abdalah, the Managing Director of the Abeer Cooling Company presenting on offering safer water through a reliable production process.
The closing remarks were made by Mr Lubiba Mampuya, the Head of Laboratories Department, OCC. This was followed by the visit of OCC Microbiology Laboratory and the Mobile laboratory for Environmental Control and a tour of the different stands prepared by the industrial sector.

In Madagascar and on behalf of the Ministry of Trade and Consumption on 6 June 2018, the NAFP published articles on accreditation in a local newspaper the “Chambre de Commerce et d’Industrie d’Antananarivo” and in the Expansion Magazine of the “Syndicat des Industries de Madagascar” and on the “Codex Alimentarius Madagascar” website for which the links to the publications in the local newspaper and the website were provided. In addition, Madagascar will arrange a conference in October 2018 during which the WAD commemoration will be jointly celebrated with the World Standards Day.

In Seychelles 2018 WAD was celebrated on 15 June 2018 during which a one-day workshop was held at Seychelles Bureau of Standards (SBS) and a press release was prepared and sent to local media for awareness. The welcome remarks was presented by Mrs Sreekala Nair, the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of SBS and the workshop was officially opened by Mr Roger Toussaint, the Principal Secretary of the Department of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development (which is under the Vice-President Office) during which he highlighted the importance of accreditation and the Role and importance of conformity assessment bodies and accreditation bodies in the accreditation process. This was followed by three presentations made by Mrs Mariam Kante, the NAFP-Seychelles who outlined the benefits of accreditation and SADCAS accreditation Services. This was followed by a presentation by Mr Vivian Radegonde, Principal Chemist at SBS who explained the accreditation of physico-chemical tests in water and heavy metals in fish and Mr Mervin Pompee, Senior Technician at SBS who presented the accreditation of histamine test in fish.
The workshop was attended by various stakeholders from the fish processing sector, Government laboratories (Ministry of Health, Agriculture, Environment, National Institute for Science, Technology and Innovation), Private laboratories (Indian Ocean Tuna, Seychelles Breweries, Ortus, Socomep), Medias and SBS staff and it ended by the presentation of certificates to SBS technical signatories and team leaders as a recognition of their contribution in achieving and maintaining accreditation and a visit of Seychelles Bureau of Standards testing and calibration laboratories.

In Swaziland the 2018 WAD was successfully celebrated on 14 June 2018 through a half-day workshop held at the City Court Guest House and was attended by the Acting Principal Secretary, the Under Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism and Environment and representatives of regulators from different ministries and regulatory agencies, Directorates, senior officials, laboratory and inspection bodies personnel, senior officials from Swaziland Standards Authority and local medias. The welcome remarks was presented by Ms Georgina Shabangu, Senior Quality Systems Officer in the Regulatory Quality Infrastructure and Development Department and the workshop was officially opened by Mr Robert Dlamini, the Acting Principal Secretary.

During the workshop Mrs Sybil Dlamini, the NAFP-Swaziland made a presentation on the role of accreditation in delivering a safer world and other presenters from the Ministry of Health (Environmental Health Department); Ministry of Tourism and Environment (Swaziland Environmental Authority); Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade (Weights and Measures Department); and Ministry of Labour and Social Security (Occupational Health and Safety Department) respectively made presentations related to the theme of the year. The WAD commemoration was also an opportunity for the National Laboratory Association to present the progress made towards Laboratories in Swaziland.
The presentations were followed by lively discussions and an interview of the NAFP through the radio by the Swaziland Broadcasting and Information Services to create more awareness on accreditation. The closing remarks was made by Ms Phindile Priscilla Dlamini, the Chief Quality Systems Administrator as well as the 2nd NAFP for Swaziland during which she emphasized on the need for regulators to develop technical regulations in a manner that put more emphasis on the use of accredited conformity assessment bodies when undertaking conformity assessment activities.
Delegates at the workshop in Swaziland

Accreditation Delivering a Safer World

9 June marks World Accreditation Day, a global initiative, jointly established by IAF and ILAC, to raise awareness of the importance of accreditation. The theme of World Accreditation Day 2018 focuses on how accreditation delivers a safer world.

What are the issues?

There are more than 2.78 million deaths per year as a result of occupational accidents or work-related diseases. Approximately 125 million people in the world are exposed to asbestos – in the workplace, resulting in an estimate of several thousand deaths from asbestos-related lung cancer each year. One in eight of total global deaths, around 7 million people annually died as a result of air pollution exposure, and there were 1.25 million recorded road traffic deaths globally in 2013.1 There are also 374 million non-fatal work-related injuries and illnesses each year, many of these resulting in extended absences from work. Aside from the significant human cost, the economic impact of poor occupational safety and health practices is estimated to be 3.94% of global Gross Domestic Product (or about US$2.8 trillion, in direct and indirect costs of injuries and diseases) each year.

Recent problems with tainted food, drugs, electronic devices and other consumer products have made clear that more needs to be done to protect consumers. Injury statistics indicate that design problems, defects and inadequate safety information for consumer products are associated with many injuries. In wider society, we expect that products we buy, from electrical goods to children’s toys, our environment (water without contaminants, air free from harmful pollutants) or large-scale infrastructure projects (such as road, bridges, and public transportation systems) are safe to use. Our daily sources of energy, such as gas or electricity, should also be accessible without risk of injury or harm. Basic services such as drinking water and medical tests should be relied upon.

Businesses have a responsibility to ensure that their employees, visitors, and customers are able to enjoy freedom from injury or disease. They should also ensure that they provide for a sense of mental, physical and social wellbeing. Health and Safety Regulation varies from country to country. In some economies, there are severe penalties for workplace accidents or breaches in policy. In other countries, economic development policies are of a higher strategic importance.
Some businesses may feel that they face a challenge in balancing health and safety with operational needs, while others may feel pressured into focusing on profitability. Providing a safe working environment should not be seen as a regulatory burden, but as a way to:

- reduce costs
- lower employee absence and turnover rates
- suffer fewer accidents
- lessen the threat of legal action
- protect reputation for corporate responsibility
- among investors and customers
- increase productivity through a healthier and
- better motivated workforce

What is the role of accreditation?

Completed projects, raw materials, products, services, management systems, and/or personnel can be evaluated against a standard, code of practice, or regulatory requirement by testing and calibration laboratories, inspection bodies and certification bodies (collectively known as conformity assessment bodies). Conformity assessment bodies are used to check that products and services are safe for use. Accreditation is the independent evaluation of these conformity assessment bodies against recognized standards to carry out specific activities to ensure their integrity, impartiality and competence. Through the application of national and international standards, government departments, businesses and wider society can therefore have confidence in the calibration and test results, inspection reports and certifications provided. Accreditation bodies are established to ensure that conformity assessment bodies are subject to oversight by a competent body. Internationally recognized accreditation bodies, which have been evaluated by peers as competent, sign international arrangements that enhance the acceptance of products and services across borders, thereby creating a global infrastructure to support health and safety related processes. These arrangements are managed by IAF, covering accreditation of certification bodies and verification/validation bodies, and ILAC, in the areas of testing, calibration and inspection body accreditation. This system ensures that the accreditations issued by different accreditation bodies is consistent across the globe. As a result, products and services tested, inspected or certified once under the IAF and ILAC umbrella, can be accepted everywhere with equal confidence.

What benefit does accreditation provide?

For Government & Regulators

The role of Government and Regulatory bodies is to ensure that businesses provide a safe working environment. They can set policy or technical requirements for products or services that are placed in the market, and rely on accredited conformity assessment bodies to verify compliance with those requirements. Accreditation can be used to support health and safety policy in different ways. For example, markets can ‘self-regulate’ through businesses voluntarily agreeing to meet set standards. This can be applied where there is a need to reassure markets on the conduct of business while minimizing risks, but where there is no desire by Government for regulatory intervention. Alternatively, businesses that demonstrate compliance with standards through accreditation may earn ‘recognition’ from regulators, who trust them to comply with their legal obligations. This enables regulators to reduce oversight and inspection visits, saving taxpayers money. This ‘Earned recognition’ can achieve the same or better outcomes as regulation, but on a voluntary basis. In this way, the cost of regulation is reduced for both the government and the regulated business International accreditation arrangements provide Regulators with a robust and credible framework to accept accredited test results, inspection reports and certifications from overseas, with an equivalent level of confidence as if they were carried out in the local economy.

Examples of how regulators are using accreditation to support their health and safety policy objectives can be found on Public Sector Assurance at http://www.publicsectorassurance.org/topic-areas/health-safety/
For Businesses

Businesses can demonstrate compliance with best practice by implementing a health and safety management system in order to:

- Improve reputation and increase opportunities to gain new business
- Minimize risks of downtime through accidents
- Demonstrate commitment with legal obligations
- Achieve potential cost savings from public liability insurance premiums
- Attract and retain staff

In a number of areas, it is a requirement to use accredited services before placing products on the market; in others it is a de facto 'licence' to trade as key purchasers expect it. Accreditation provides market differentiation and objective proof that products are safe and meet specification. Accreditation is increasingly recognized in tender documents and for overseas trade. In some cases, it can result in reduced levies or audits.

Examples of how businesses are gaining tangible benefits from using standards and accreditation can be found on the Business Benefits website at http://business-benefits.org

For Employees

Working for a company that has implemented an occupational health and safety management standard sends a clear signal to employees and stakeholders that they view employees' health and safety as a priority within the organization. It will identify risks and ensure a safe working environment.

For Citizens

Public confidence can be gained from goods or services that are accompanied by an accredited certificate of conformity. International accreditation agreements ensure that such goods and services placed on the market, from which ever country of origin, meet standards of quality and safety.

Accreditation provides a globally-recognized tool to not only assess and control risks of the internal operation of businesses, but also the products and services that they place on the market. In this way, Regulators, purchasers and employees can demonstrate confidence that accreditation delivers a safer world.

Visit http://www.publicsectorassurance.org/topicareas/health-safety/ to access research, case studies and supporting information relating to the positive benefits of accreditation in the delivery of health and safety policy.

Visit www.businessbenefits.org for examples of how businesses can benefit from standards and accreditation.

Visit www.sadcas.org for information on accreditation services.

Delivering confidence, Assuring competency
AFRAC Achieves Recognition Status to the ILAC MRA and IAF MLA

The African Region Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC) achieved recognition status to the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) Multi-Lateral Arrangement (MLA) on 22 May 2018. This came after a rigorous joint IAF/ILAC evaluation of AFRAC and endorsement of the following recommendations by the IAF MLA Committee and the ILAC Arrangement Council:

- AFRAC be accepted as an IAF MLA member for the accreditation of conformity assessment bodies for:

- Recognition of the AFRAC MRA to the ILAC MRA be granted for the following accreditation schemes:
  - Calibration (ISO/IEC 17025)
  - Testing (ISO/IEC 17025)
  - Medical Testing (ISO 15189)
  - Inspection (ISO/IEC 17020)

The recognition of the AFRAC MRA supports regional and international trade by promoting confidence and acceptance of results generated by accredited laboratories, inspection and certification bodies. Technical barriers to trade (TBTs) such as re-testing, re-inspection or re-certification of products/services each time they enter a new economy will thus be reduced if not eliminated. This international recognition of the AFRAC MRA is a key milestone enabling full integration of Africa into the world trading system as it enhances regional and global market access, hence an enabler to accelerating economic growth within the continent. For the fulfillment of Africa's aspirations as provided for in the Agenda 2063, this international recognition will enable inclusive growth and sustainable development through positioning of Africa as an influential global player and partner on conformity assessment and accreditation. In line with AFRAC's mission the recognition also enhances the protection of the health and safety of the public and the environment.

This recognition couldn’t have come at a more opportune time when more than forty African Countries signed a historic trade agreement 'The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)' paving way for a liberalized market for goods and services across the continent hence the need for recognized conformity assessment activities to build the confidence and trust on the goods and services being traded across the continent.

AFRAC Arrangement Members are independent accreditation bodies appointed or recognized by the government of the Member State or sub-regional block and legally established and operating in the African region and who have successfully been evaluated by AFRAC. These are EGAC-Egypt, ENAO-Ethiopia, KENAS-Kenya, SADCAS – Botswana (representing 13 countries in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) region), SANAS-South Africa and TUNAC –Tunisia.

Congratulations AFRAC as you bring your Motto to light:

“Confidence & Trust”
SADCAS CEO and Technical Manager Attend the Mid-Term AFRAC Meetings

The 2018 mid-term AFRAC meetings were held from 22 to 29 June 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya. The meetings which were preceded by training workshops for peer evaluators were hosted by the Kenyan Accreditation System (KENAS). The SADC Accreditation Service (SADCAS) was represented at the mid-term meetings by Mrs Maureen P Mutasa, the CEO and Ms Jeanne Ranorovelo, the Technical Manager.

Two training workshops for peer evaluators were held in conjunction with the meetings starting with the 2-day training workshop on the newly published ISO/IEC 17025:2017 held from 22 to 23 June 2018. The workshop which was facilitated by Mr Moslem Barack was attended by 16 participants of which 2 were trainee peer evaluators from SADCAS, Ms Ranorovelo and Mr Victor Mundembe. This was followed by a 3-day training workshop on ISO/IEC 17011:2017 held from 24 to 26 June 2018 and attended by 30 participants of which 4 were SADCAS representatives comprised of 3 trainee evaluators namely Ms Ranorovelo, Mr Mundembe and Mr Xavier Mugari and one peer evaluator, Mrs Maureen Mutasa.

Thereafter on 27 June 2018 the AFRAC mid-term meetings started with the MRA Committee and Technical Committee meetings followed by the MRA Council and Marketing Communications Committee (MCC) meetings on 28 June and ending with the Executive Committee meeting on 29 June 2018. The SADCAS CEO Mrs Maureen P Mutasa attended the MRA Committee and MRA Council Meetings as well as the AFRAC Executive Meeting whilst Ms Ranorovelo attended the Technical Committee and MCC meetings.

The MRA Committee meeting was attended by 7 members out of the 9 members and the Secretariat. A number of issues were discussed during the meeting which passed a total of 24 resolutions. Discussions were held on the case of TUNAC which had voluntarily withdrawn from the AFRAC Arrangement. Regarding this matter and recognizing TUNAC’s role in strengthening AFRAC, the MRA recommended to the AFRAC’s EXCO that a meeting be arranged between AFRAC and the Pan African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI) to discuss the matter of multiple signatory status with the European Accreditation (EA) and AFRAC with the intention of taking up the matter with the AU Commission. The MRA Committee further recommended that a meeting also be arranged with the Tunisian Minister responsible for trade to clarify the multiple signatory issue as explained by the EA during the IAF/ILAC mid-term meetings in April 2018 and to request Tunisia to reconsider its withdrawal decision. Consideration was also made on the position of MRA Committee Chair since that position is held by Mr Moez Boughalmi from Tunisia. After some discussion it was noted that according to the AFRAC Bylaws, Chairs of Committees can be elected from Arrangement or Full members. TUNAC had only withdrawn from the Arrangement member category and admitted to the Full member category. The MRA Committee then recommended that the position of MRA Council be put up for election at the next General Assembly since this position is supposed to be elected from the Arrangement members. All these recommendations were subsequently approved at the EXCO meeting held on 29 June 2018. On the stalled peer evaluation of TUNAC, the MRA Council at its 5th meeting held on 28 June 2018, approved the MRA Committee’s recommendation to see the peer evaluation of TUNAC undertaken in 2017, to completion and to advise the TUNAC Director General and Team leader accordingly.

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Following the survey of the MRA scopes undertaken in 2017, the MRA Committee recommended to the MRA Council that a Task Force be established by the Technical Committee to undertake a feasibility study into the extension of the MRA Scope to include Proficiency Testing Providers (PT), Reference Materials Providers (RMP), Product Certification, Persons Certification and Green House Gas. It is noted that quite a number of AFRAC members are already accrediting PT Providers and product certification bodies with some already being signatory to the EA and IAF MLA for product certification. The feasibility study shall be undertaken in accordance with M003 the AFRAC procedure for extension of MRA scope. It is expected that a report shall be ready in time for presentation at the 10th AFRAC General Assembly to be held in 2019.

The MRA Committee reviewed the Task Force Group report on the review of the final re-evaluation report for SANAS and recommended to the MRA Council that the AFRAC MRA Signatory status of SANAS be continued for the following scopes: Testing to ISO/IEC 17025:2005; Calibration to ISO/IEC 17025:2005; Medical testing to ISO 15189:2012; Inspection to ISO/IEC 17020:2012; and EMS and QMS to ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015; ISO/IEC 17021-2:2016 and ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017. The MRA Committee further recommended that the AFRAC MRA Signatory status of SANAS be granted for Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS) certification to ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015, ISO/TS 22003:2013. The Task Force comprised of Eng. Mahmoud Eltayeb as the convenor, and Ms Sonia Mahdoul-Melki. The MRA recommendation was subsequently approved by the MRA Council during which it was further agreed that the next full AFRAC MRA re-evaluation of SANAS should take place after 4 years from the last day of the previous re-evaluation and no later than 3rd August 2021.

On training issues and noting that the training on ISO/IEC 17011:2017 may no longer be necessary as most accreditation bodies had already attended or planned to have in-house training courses on ISO/IEC 17011, and further noting a training course on the same had been held in conjunction with the mid-term meetings as well as a training course on ISO/IEC 17025: 2017, the MRA Committee resolved to arrange a training session on risk management for accreditation bodies and peer evaluators at the upcoming AFRAC annual meetings. Another training course on how to evaluate risk management will also be arranged for evaluators at the 2019 mid-term meetings.

The MRA Committee reviewed the 2017 ILAC and IAF annual meetings’ resolutions the following of which were the subsequently adopted by the EXCO: ILAC Resolution GA 21.18 to withdraw P13:10/2010 Application of ISO/IEC 17011 for the Accreditation of Proficiency Testing Providers when ISO/IEC 17011:2017 has been fully implemented; Joint ILAC IAF General Assembly Resolution 2 on the implementation of transition to ISO/IEC 17011:2017; IAF Resolution 2017-13 Transitional arrangements for the ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 14001:2015. Accreditation body members of AFRAC were requested to circulate the IAF Communiqué to all CBS accredited and under process on transition and to undertake a survey as at end of June and September 2018 to monitor the transition; IAF Resolution 2017-16 Transitional arrangements for the transition of ISO 22000:2005 to ISO 22000:2018; and IAF Resolution 2017-17 Transitional arrangements for the revision of ISO/IEC TS 17021-3:2013 to ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017. The MRA Committee also encouraged accreditation bodies to advise their Certification Bodies in Africa to register with the IAF Database for Accredited Management Systems Certifications and to advise their CB’s that accredited certifications to ISO 31000:2009: Risk Management – Principles and Guidelines shall not be done. AFRAC will issue a Communiqué to this regard with a request to accreditation bodies to publicize it.

The MRA Committee also considered the various transition reports presented by the accreditation bodies on ISO/IEC 17011:2017 and monitored transition thereof and encouraged members to participate in the ISO CASCO survey on implementation of ISO/IEC 17011:2017, as requested by ILAC and the IAF. Transition reports on ISO/IEC 17025, ISO/IEC 17021-2 and ISO/IEC 17021-3 transition were also presented with the MRA Committee noting with concern the low levels of transition to ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 14001:2015 and encouraging its members to continue publicising the IAF Communiqué in this regard, and to participate in the upcoming surveys on 30 June and 30 September 2018.

The AFRAC mid-term Technical Committee (TC) meeting was held on 27 June 2018 and chaired by Mr Mpho Phaloane from SANAS. A total of 20 participants from BOBS, ENAO, KENAS, NINAS, SADCAS, SANAS, SDAC, SOAC, SON and UNIDO attended the meeting where SADCAS was represented by Ms Jeanne Françoise Ranorovelo, the Technical Manager.

The purpose of the meeting was to review the AFRAC TC Terms of Reference, to review progress on the TC sub-committees activities (Testing/Calibration/Inspection/Certification), to discuss opportunities of proficiency testing (PT)/Inter Laboratories Comparison participation (ILC), to review participation at ILAC and IAF meetings, to review feedback on developments of international standards under review and for which members were expected to participate in these developments through the National ISO CASCO Mirror Committees for standards and to review technical documents identified and published or under development and to review the 2017/18 work plan.

In the absence of the Convenor, Mrs Felista Nyakoe from KENAS presented the feedback from the Testing/Calibration sub-committee raising the challenges faced by conformity assessment bodies (CABs) in participating in PTs mainly due to the cost and/or due to the nature of PT itself for which it is sometimes difficult to guarantee the integrity of the samples and to move the artifacts across borders. It was noted that the AFRAC Secretariat had circulated and will continue to circulate to accreditation bodies’ information on PT received by the Secretariat. To this regard, the meeting was informed about the invitation to participate in APLAC PT which was received by the AFRAC Secretariat and the information was forwarded to accreditation bodies. Up to 2018, accredited/applicant laboratories with KENAS, SADCAS and SANAS had participated in APLAC PT. The TC Chairman then advised the meeting of a follow up meeting which will be held with the European Union in September 2018 to discuss how to assist African countries send artifacts across borders. It was also highlighted that in the new ISO/IEC 17025:2017, each accreditation body should have its own policy for PT following which Mrs Nyakoe informed that most of the PT providers were not yet accredited and she requested AFRAC to look into this issue. Mr Neville Tayler advised that the ILAC brochure on PT is available and may assist AFRAC members in developing their policies.

The feedback from Certification sub-committee was made by the Convener, Mr Michael Talam from KENAS, who highlighted that the main activity undertaken was the training on ISO/IEC 17021-1, ISO/IEC 17021-2 and ISO/IEC 17021-3 and he further mentioned that more trainings will be arranged during the 2018 AFRAC meetings to be held in Mauritius in September 2018.

The feedback from Inspection sub-committee was presented by Mr Mpho Phaloane who reported on the availability of statistics of accredited inspection bodies per accreditation body as well as the scopes of inspection; response to ILAC comments/interpretations, report on his attendance to ILAC meetings and the development of new documents. Mr Phaloane also reported on the ILAC new work items under progress such as harmonization of scopes of accreditation,
NDT to be considered under inspection activity, and some documents to be circulated for comments. The meeting adopted a total of 8 resolutions amongst which were the resolution seeking to establish a Medical Laboratories sub-committee to assist the technical committee with their activities; proposed the adoption of IAF MD 23:2018 “Control of entities operating on behalf of accredited management systems certification bodies”; and recommend the withdrawal of ILAC P13:10/2010 “Application of ISO/IEC 17011 for the accreditation of PT providers” in line with the ILAC Resolution GA 21.18 once ISO/IEC 17011 has been fully implemented.

The MRA Council meeting was held on 28 June 2018 and passed 13 resolutions most of which agreed to the MRA Committee's recommendations on the issues raised above and key of which was the approval of continued signatory status for SANAS for the following scopes: Testing to ISO/IEC 17025:2005; Calibration to ISO/IEC 17025:2005; Medical testing to ISO 15189:2012; Inspection to ISO/IEC 17020:2012; and EMS and QMS to ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015; ISO/IEC 17021-2:2016 and ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017. The MRA Council further agreed to the MRA Committee recommendation to grant AFRAC MRA Signatory status to SANAS for FSMS certification to ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015, ISO/TS 22003:2013. The next full AFRAC MRA re-evaluation of SANAS should take place after 4 years from the last day of the previous re-evaluation and no later than 03rd August 2021. The MRA Council also requested the MRA Committee to apply to IAF with immediate effect for an extension for the FSMS scope, as an extension to its Certification Management System scopes.

As accreditation is one of the pillar for quality and following the involvement of AFRAC in the Pan African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI) and the launch of “2018 as the African Year of Anti–Corruption” during the 30th Assembly of Heads of State and Governments held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 28 – 29 January 2018, the AFRAC Secretariat presented a letter from PAQI where all the PAQI pillars were requested to support the African Union in this journey of fighting corruption at all levels of all institutions. The MCC recommended that AFRAC promotes it during the General Assembly in September 2018.

Following the AFRAC’s international recognition and signatory status by ILAC and IAF, the MCC discussed on the celebration of this achievement to be held during the AFRAC General Assembly in September 2018 but Ms Munyiri-Ochieng noted that the Certificate will be received by AFRAC during the ILAC/IAF General Assembly to be held in Singapore in October 2018.

At the end of the meeting, eight resolutions which covers the recommendations and encouragement mentioned above were taken.

On the same day the AFRAC mid-term Marketing and Communication Committee (MCC) meeting which was attended by 9 participants from ENAO, KENAS, NINAS, SADCAS, SANAS, SDAC and SOAC with SADCAS being represented by Ms Rannorovelo was held. The meeting was chaired by Ms Susan Munyiri-Ochieng from KENAS The purpose of the meeting was to review the AFRAC MCC Terms of reference; the 2017/18 work plan, progress on committee activities, participation in ILAC MCC and IAF CMC activities, and to discuss the involvement in PAQI activity and the celebration of AFRAC’s international recognition and signatory status. Discussions were held on whether or not to develop the AFRAC MRA mark a matter which was referred to the Executive Committee for further discussion. The MCC noted the need to revise the peer evaluation guide and to publish it as a brochure. It was also noted that that only SADCAS and KENAS had submitted articles for the Public Assurance and Business benefits of accreditation case studies of which members were encouraged to submit. The AFRAC newsletter was published as per schedule and AFRAC has now started to use social media (Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn). The AFRAC MRA map needs to be designed and to be presented at the AFRAC General Assembly meeting to be held in Mauritius in September 2018. The Chair then reported on her participation at the ILAC/IAF meetings held in October 2017 in Vancouver, Canada. She also mentioned that the World Accreditation Day 2018 theme as well as the supporting information from ILAC was communicated to all AFRAC members for which she expected that the commendation had been held or scheduled to be held. To this regard, she requested all to submit a report which will be part of the publications in the upcoming AFRAC newsletter, July 2018 edition.

The AFRAC Executive Committee meeting was held on 29 June 2018 during which 25 resolutions were passed. The EXCO having reviewed the expenditure reports for the 2015 and 2017 AFRAC annual meetings and noting the need to cover as much as possible meeting expenses, will propose to the General Assembly that the registration fee for the 2019 General Assembly be increased to USD 300 whilst the registration fee of US$ 100 be maintained for the 2019 mid-term meetings.
The 9th AFRAC annual meetings will be held in Mauritius from 24 to 29 September 2018 during which AFRAC will also celebrate its achievement of signatory status.

The mid-term AFRAC meetings were well organized with all training workshops and meetings being held at EKA Hotel. The meetings were also very well scheduled with SADCAS having been represented by 2 delegates allowing representation in all the meeting held. Many thanks to the host KENAS for the excellent arrangements made for our attendance including the dinner at Safari and cocktails at EKA Hotel.
AFRAC Trains Peer Evaluators on the New Revised Standards

The training on ISO/IEC 17025:2017 was held on 22 and 23 June 2018 at the EKA Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya and facilitated by Mr Moslem Barrack from ARAC and AFRAC Peer Evaluator Team Leader. The training was attended by trainee and qualified AFRAC Peer Evaluators responsible for the evaluation of testing/calibration laboratories according to ISO/IEC 17025 from EGAC, ENAO, KENAS, SADCAS, SANAS and TUNAC. SADCAS was represented at the training by Ms Jeanne Françoise Ranorovelo, Technical Manager and trainee Peer evaluator for Testing and Mr Victor Mundembe, Technical Assessor and trainee Peer evaluator for Calibration.

The main objective of the training was to highlight the new and changed requirements in the ISO/IEC 17025:2017, to discuss underlying concepts with the goal of enabling participants to have a better understanding of the recent changes, and to assist AFRAC Peer Evaluators in evaluating laboratories in a harmonized way within the AFRAC region.

The training covered the following key areas: Overview and rationale of changes; Risk-based approach; Decision rule; Management system Options A and B; Subcontracting; Calibration certificates without results/measurement of uncertainty i.e. Conformity Certificates; Control of data when off-site managed, cloud storage, laboratory information management system (LIMS); and Sampling and especially as a stand-alone activity. The training also covered group work with presentations from each group followed by questions identified outside the normal training and lively discussions.

The training arranged by AFRAC for Peer Evaluators marks a significant milestone in the development and implementation of the AFRAC MRA. The evaluations that will be undertaken by a pool of evaluators, who will participate in teams comprising experienced evaluators and lead evaluators, within the context of the ILAC MRA, will provide the most effective means to collect objective evidence as to whether the principle elements of mutual confidence have been met, and the requirements of the Arrangement are fulfilled, thereby facilitating the acceptance of African produced goods and services in the global market. The training enabled the Evaluators and Trainees to evaluate accreditation bodies in the areas of calibration and testing in a uniform manner.

We would like to thank PTB-Germany for funding the attendance of Peer Evaluators to the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 training and KENAS for their hospitality in hosting the training.

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AFRAC is a cooperation of accreditation bodies, sub-regional accreditation cooperation’s and stakeholders whose objective is to facilitate trade, contribute to the protection of health, safety and the environment, in Africa, and thereby improve Africa’s competitiveness. The key function of AFRAC is creation and maintenance of a system for the recognition of accreditation bodies in Africa within the framework of and consistent with global Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA). ISO/IEC 17011 the key international accreditation standard which accreditation bodies have to comply with together with International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and International Accreditation Forum (IAF) documents in order to be internationally recognized. The role of AFRAC Peer Evaluators is to conduct peer evaluations of accreditation bodies in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011 and ILAC and IAF documents.

The AFRAC Peer Evaluator training was held from 24 to 26 June 2018 at EKA Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya. Ms Barbra Belzer facilitated the training. Ms Belzer is the Program Manager at the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP), USA. She has performed both lead and technical assessments for NVLAP since 1999 and is a peer evaluator for

ISO/IEC 17011:2017 Training

SADCAS participants on the ISO/IEC 17025 Training Workshop receiving certificates from Mrs Mutasa Vice Chairman of AFRAC

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the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) MRA and the Inter American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) Multi-Lateral Agreement. She also serves as a Peer Evaluator at the regional level for ILAC. Ms Belzer was a member of ISO/CASCO/WG 42, which revised ISO/IEC 17011. The revised standard was published in November 2017.

Peer Evaluators and Trainee Peer Evaluators from 7 accreditation bodies namely, EGAC, TUNAC, SADCAS, KENAS, SANAS, ENAO and MAURITAS took part in the training. SADCAS was represented by the following participants:

- Mrs Maureen P Mutasa (SADCAS CEO, AFRAC and APLAC Peer Evaluator);
- Ms Jeanne Ranorovelo (SADCAS Technical Manager & Trainee AFRAC Peer Evaluator);
- Mr Victor Mundembe (SADCAS Technical Assessor & Trainee AFRAC Peer Evaluator; and
- Mr Xavier Mugari (SADCAS Technical/Lead Assessor & Trainee AFRAC Peer Evaluator).

The training covered the following:

- Issues raised and lessons learnt during the evaluation of AFRAC by IAF/ILAC (Presented by Mr Moslem Barrack)
- Peer evaluation techniques
- IAF/ILAC-A2: Specifies requirements and procedures for evaluation of a single accreditation body
- IAF/ILAC-A3: Provides a framework for reporting on the performance of an accreditation body during the peer evaluation process.

SADCAS participants pose for a photo with Mr Adel Rezk a participant from EGAC (Egypt)
Participants were presented with certificates at the end of the training. Peer Evaluations are important milestones towards AFRAC providing evidence to ILAC and IAF that it is competent to manage Mutual Recognition Arrangements in Africa. SADCAS is signatory to AFRAC and ILAC MRA.
ADCAS wishes to remind any certified entity that on 15 September 2018, all ISO 9001:2008 and ISO 14001:2004 certificates will expire and will no longer be valid. This means that each certified entity must work with their certification body to ensure that all elements of the certification process have been completed, from audits to the technical review and decision by the certification body to the issue of the certificate by the deadline.

The following are the averages for transition based on data collected by SADCAS from 5 certification bodies that are either accredited or under process with SADCAS:

- **ISO 9001** – The average transition rate was only 22% as at 30 June 2018 compared to 20% as at 28 February 2018 and 19% as at 31 January 2018.

- **ISO 14001** – The average transition rate was only 25% as at 30 June 2018 compared to 25% as at 28 February 2018 and 23% as at 31 January 2018.

Transition has been slow rather slow and the data above is on the lower end of the worldwide averages. Progress must now be accelerated as the last two (2) months of the transition period approaches and noting that the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) has ruled that no work on the previous versions of both standards shall be permitted after 15 March 2018.

SADCAS hereby stresses the necessity for any organization that still needs to transition to ensure that all efforts are made to meet the 15 September 2018 deadline.

Certification to ISO 9001 and/or ISO 14001, especially for many businesses, is essential as a gateway for involvement in supply chains and providing their goods and services to a variety of customers. Only completion of the full transition process by 15 September 2018 ensures continued certification to ISO 9001 and ISO 14001.

The completion of the transition process provides access to the key benefits of the revised standards. The new ISO 9001 promotes enhanced leadership involvement in the management system, introduces risk-based thinking and aligns the quality management system policy and objectives with the strategy of the organization. The changes in ISO 14001 focus on key issues such as protecting the environment improving environmental performance, lifecycle thinking and organizations’ environmental leadership.

The following training courses based on the New!! ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Standard now on offer

- One-day ISO/IEC 17025 Awareness
- 3-day ISO/IEC 17025 Internal Auditing
- 3-day ISO/IEC 17025 Bridging Course (to the new standard)
- 5-day ISO/IEC Requirements and Internal Auditing

To register for training please contact SADCAS: Email: info@sadcas.org or Tel: +267 313 2909/ 10
Mrs Pinkie Malebe Participates at the Africa Food Safety Workshop

SADCAS Coordinator for the Testing Laboratories Accreditation Scheme, Mrs Pinkie Malebe represented SADCAS at the Africa Food Safety Workshop which was held on 4 – 8 June 2018 at The Capital Maine Hotel in Menlyn, Pretoria, South Africa. Mrs Malebe gave a presentation on “The role of accreditation in Food Safety and facilitation of Trade”.

The workshop, a first of its kind and magnitude was hosted by the National Metrology Institute of South Africa (NMISA). The organizing partners were the National Metrology Institute of China, Food Agricultural Organization (FAO), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Bureau International Poids et Mesures (BIPM) and Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt Braunchweig und Berlin (PTB).

The Chief Executive Officer of NMISA, Mr Ndwakhulu Mukhufhi, welcomed delegates followed by an opening lecture by the guest of honour Dr Amare Ayalew, a Representative of the African Union Commission. It was a high delegate meeting attended by experts from 55 countries across the world. The main objectives of the workshop were to share information, research work done, challenges relating to Food Safety in Africa and mainly to network and collaborate as different stakeholders in issues of Food Safety.
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Presentations were made by international experts on the following main topics:

- Mycotoxins as food contaminants; Reference Standards, Methods of analysis, Proficiency Testing Programmes; Mycotoxins control and remediation;
- Capacity building for Mycotoxin analysis and Mycotoxins in trade;
- Veterinary drugs and Pesticide residues;
- Country reports on monitoring drug and pesticide residues;
- Food Microbiology and its linkage to antimicrobial use, residues and antimicrobial resistance; and
- Food traceability and authenticity

The discussions were mainly focused on:

- Mycotoxins and Veterinary Drug Residues in Food safety;
- Health and economical challenges;
- Challenges and trends in monitoring and testing of Mycotoxins and drug residues;
- Emergence of modified mycotoxins which pose a challenge when tested with existing methods of analysis;
- New methods and techniques in Mycotoxin analysis – new trends in the analysis of Multi -mycotoxin analysis with emphasis on cheaper/affordable methods of analysis and Green technologies;
- Availability of Certified Reference Materials and Proficiency Testing programs.

Following the technical papers on food contaminants, there were presentations on the issues relating to standardization and accreditation as well as challenges in implementing standards. The Chairman of the SADCAS Board of Directors, Mr Steve Sidney presented on the main changes in the new standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017, a presentation which aroused a lot of interest from the participants.
In conclusion, the meeting agreed on the following as what still needs to be done to address challenges relating to food safety in Africa.

- To enhance networking, collaboration and communication in Africa
- To tap into regional expertise
- To improve capacity building
- To enhance aspects of quality and excellence in research and testing
- To collaborate and offer support in Proficiency Testing, acquisition of Certified Reference Materials and accreditation.
- To integrate networking activities at African Union level
- To source for funding in training and research from institutions such as Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) and the African Development Bank.

This was a highly informative, professional and well organised inaugural Africa Food Safety Workshop and the delegates proposed that it be held after every two years.

A Multi-economy Accreditation Body!!
The SADCAS CEO, Mrs Maureen P Mutasa, participated in a peer evaluation of the Mauritian Accreditation System (MAURITAS) on behalf of AFRAC and SADCA. This was the 4th peer evaluation Mrs Mutasa has undertaken for AFRAC, having done one in August 2014 and another in 2017. It was the first peer evaluation for SADCA. The evaluation included calibration and testing laboratories and certification schemes and was held from 21 to 25 May 2018.

Mrs Mutasa was part of a team of 3 members: Adel Reitz (team leader and responsible for calibration), Maureen P Mutasa (deputy team leader and responsible for certification), and Marcel Gbaguidi (SOAC) responsible for testing. Two trainee evaluators, Shadrack Phophi and Hany El Desouki, were being mentored during the evaluation.

The closing meeting was held on 25 May 2018, where the team leader presented the findings and outlined the way forward following the onsite evaluation of MAURITAS. Mrs Mutasa expressed the privilege to be part of the team selected to peer evaluate MAURITAS, having participated as a team member for a pre-peer evaluation undertaken in 2016.
Customer Satisfaction Survey

In an effort to continuously improve its accreditation services thus serve customers better, SADCAS undertook a customer satisfaction survey during the 2017/18 financial year.

The Customer satisfaction survey form was circulated to clients electronically on an ongoing basis for completion as they receive accreditation services from SADCAS. The feedback is analyzed on an ongoing basis with any suggestions for improvement being considered and implemented accordingly. Seventy-one forms were circulated and 35 responses were received. The following results are based on an analysis of all the feedback received during the period beginning 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.

- **100% rated SADCAS overall accreditation services from good to excellent with 97% rating from very good to excellent.** Refer to Figure 1.
- **100% rated SADCAS accreditation for accuracy and completeness of technical information from good to excellent with 97% rating from very good to excellent.** Refer to Figure 2.
- **100% rated SADCAS accreditation process timelines from satisfactory (7%), good (5%), very good (47%) to excellent (41%).** Refer to Figure 3.
- **100% rated professionalism of assessment team from very good (46) to excellent (54%).** Refer to Figure 4.
- There was an improvement in overall satisfaction on accreditation service during the 2017/18 year when 100% rated overall satisfaction from good, very good to excellent compared to 94% for the 2016/17 financial year.
- There was an improvement in all aspects for which feedback was sought from clients over the 2016/17 financial year as follows:
  - Accuracy of completeness of technical information – 97% vs 81% in 2016/17
  - Accreditation process timelines – 88% vs 64% in 2016/17
  - Professionalism of assessment team – 100% vs 89%.

SADCAS Value Proposition

- **Delivering confidence**
- **Assuring competency**
Training on Validation/Verification of Methods and Measurement Uncertainty

SADCAS also offers training on Validation/Verification of Methods and measurement Uncertainty.

The objective of the Validation & Verification of Methods is to:

- Bring the participants from fundamental principles of descriptive statistics with the emphasis on hypothesis testing for the determination and verification of:
  - Trueness (Bias)
  - Precision
  - Linearity of calibration curves
  - Working Range
  - Selectivity/specificity
  - Ruggedness & Robustness
  - Sensitivity
  - Limit of Quantification
  - Limit of Detection

The objective of Measurement Uncertainty is to:

- Remove the mystique surrounding the concept of Measurement Uncertainty;
- Promote a practical methodology, based on GUM requirements to calculate measurement uncertainty over the working range of the method;
- Promote acceptable forms of expression of Measurement Uncertainty associated with any results.
- Create an understanding of the requirement of validation and verification and their respective applications in terms of both ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO 15189
- Ability to design a validation or verification programme
NAFP-Botswana Visits Laboratories

The NAFP-Botswana visited five laboratories during the 1st Quarter April-June 2018. These visits were conducted as part of targeted marketing to conformity assessment bodies and other critical stakeholders by SADCAS and NAFP-Botswana. Four of the laboratories visited are based in Maun (northern part of Botswana) while one is in Molepolole (southern part of Botswana). This is all in an effort to provide services and disseminate information on accreditation services to all areas within the country. Over the years several laboratories were visited throughout the country in Ghanzi and Charlestown; Serowe, Palapye and Mahalapye; Francistown; Gaborone, Lobatse and Kanye; and Maun, Toteng, Rakops etc.

The five laboratories visited were as follows:

✓ Department of Occupational Health and Safety, Maun-31st May 2018
✓ Pathview Laboratory, Maun-31st May 2018;
✓ Northern Pathology Services, Maun-31st May 2018;
✓ Department of Water Affairs, Maun-7th June 2018; and

Northern Pathology Services in Maun

Northern Pathology laboratory is a private clinical laboratory based in Francistown (main laboratory) and has a branch in Maun. The Maun branch started to operate in May 2016 and has a scope of chemistry, microbiology and hematology. It has got two staff members, one phlebotomist and one analyst. The two laboratory staff have not been trained on ISO 15189. However, the laboratory has a quality management system in place and is being implemented. It participates in EQA offered by National Quality Assurance Laboratory.

Department of Occupational Health and Safety (DOHS) in Maun

DOHS is a regulator that deals with workplace inspection to ascertain personnel safety under the Factories Act of 1973. It has got 6 staff members, 3 of which are inspectors and two of them (inspectors) have participated in ISO/IEC 17020 Lead and Technical Assessor training through Regional Economic Integration Support (REIS) programme under the SADC -EU EDF 10. The catchment area for the DOSH Maun branch is the whole of Northwest District, part of Central District from Gweta and Ghanzi.

Department of Water Affairs, Maun Branch

The Department of Water Affairs laboratory in Maun is a government owned water analysis laboratory with 5 analysts. The scope of the laboratory is microbiology: (Escherichia coli, faecal coliform, total coliform), and chemistry: electrical conductivity, total dissolved solids/tds) physical parameters, alkalinity, six (6) cations (Ca, Mg, Mn, Fe, Na, K) and seven (7) anions (fluorides, sulphates, nitrates, nitrates, bromides, phosphates, and chlorides. The output of the laboratory is about 460 samples per quarter for microbiology and 100 samples per quarter for chemistry. Three analysts have been trained on understanding, documentation and internal auditing of ISO/IEC 17025, even though the last person was trained in 2008. The catchment area for the laboratory is the North West District, Ghanzi District and Chobe District. The laboratory analyse water from government boreholes, boreholes of individuals, private companies e.g., safari companies, parastatals, e.g., Botswana Meat Commission and Water Utilities Corporation water sources (surface and ground water) as it has got no laboratory in the Northern parts of the country.

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Pathview Laboratories

Pathview laboratory is a private medical laboratory that stated operating in 2014 founded by two medical laboratory scientists based in Maun. It has six analysts, being two (2) senior analysts who are the founding partners and four (4) technicians. The company is currently preparing to open a branch in Ghanzi which will be operated by three (3) analysts (one of the senior analyst and two technicians) and the other three analysts (one (1) senior analyst and two technicians) remaining in the Maun branch. The scope of the laboratory is microbiology, biochemistry, haematology, HIV monitoring and evaluation (CD4 count, and viral load testing) and DNA paternity testing. The output is about 20-30 samples per day as the laboratory is small in a small town. The laboratory has not yet started participating in EQA but it is so far carrying out internal quality controls.

Clinipath Laboratories

Clinipath is a fairly new private medical laboratory based in Molepolole that started offering clinical testing in March 2018. It has got three (3 staff employees), being one analyst who is also an owner of the laboratory and three (3) support staff members. The scope of the laboratory is chemistry, haematology, and serology, while microbiology is not yet operation even though it is part of the scope. The laboratory is still trying to make arrange for participating in EQAs offered by National Quality Assurance Laboratory, Ministry of Health and Wellness. The analyst has been trained in ISO 15189. The catchment area is Molepolole and the whole Kweneng District. The laboratory has started developing a quality management system.

Invitation to Register as SADCAS Assessors

The Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) invites qualified assessors to be registered as SADCAS assessors for its testing/calibration/medical laboratories, and certification (management systems/product) inspection bodies’ accreditation programmes. SADCAS’ strategy over the next few years is to grow its pool of assessors so as to cover the anticipated scopes of accreditation, and the geographical and language diversity in the SADC region of which 13 Member States are serviced by SADCAS.

Assessors are experts from the public and private sectors as well as from technical institutions/associations who have been trained, qualified and registered as assessors by an accreditation body.

SADCAS will review and evaluate all applications to ensure that the assessors have the prerequisite qualifications, technical knowledge and experience required by SADCAS.

Applications shall be addressed to:
Ms Jeanne F Ranorovelo
Technical Manager
P Bag 00320
Gaborone, Botswana
Email: jfranorovelo@sadcas.org; info@sadcas.org
The Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) scope in the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) Mutual Recognition Arrangement has been extended to include Medical Testing to ISO 15189 and Inspection to ISO/IEC 17020 following an extraordinary joint peer evaluation successfully held from 14 to 19 May 2017 by ILAC and the African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC). The decision was made by the ILAC Arrangement Council at its meeting held on Saturday, 28 October 2017 in Vancouver, Canada.

With this additional achievement the accreditation certificates issued by SADCAS for the Medical Laboratories and Inspection Bodies’ accreditation programmes are internationally recognized thus enhance the acceptance of medical test/inspection results across national borders, remove the need for repetitive testing/inspection of products traded internationally and in the case of medical improves patient care.

SADCAS is recognized by the SADC Council of Ministers as a subsidiarity 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 provides 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 communiqué serves to inform all medical testing and inspection bodies about the way forward regarding accreditation following SADCAS’ achievement. A number of scenarios are considered as follows:

1. **For all medical testing (ISO 15189) and inspection bodies (ISO/IEC 17020)** 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.

2. **For all medical testing (ISO 15189) and inspection bodies (ISO/IEC 17020)** whose applications are in progress and or were accredited under the SADCAS/SANAS TP from 28 October 2017, only a SADCAS certificate will be issued.

3. **For all medical testing (ISO 15189) and inspection bodies (ISO/IEC 17020)** 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.

4. **All new applications received by SANAS from the 13 SADC Member States serviced by SADCAS** from 28 October 2017 shall be referred to SADCAS.
5. **SANAS accredited medical testing (ISO 15189) and inspection bodies (ISO/IEC 17020) 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: [http://www.sadcas.org/policies-and-procedures-english](http://www.sadcas.org/policies-and-procedures-english) or else we refer you to contact the SADCAS Technical Manager on: jfrano-rovelo@sadcas.org for the Inspection Bodies Accreditation Programme and the SADCAS Programme Coordinator for the Medical Laboratories Accreditation Programme on: emuronda@sadcas.org for more information.

Meanwhile SADCAS is also working towards signatory status for its certification bodies—management systems (ISO/IEC 17021-1) and certification bodies—product (ISO/IEC 17065) accreditation programmes, and any applications from such certification bodies shall continue to be processed under the SADCAS/SANAS TPA until SADCAS has achieved international recognition in the AFRAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement/International Accreditation Forum Multilateral Arrangement.

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**Assessors’ Experiences**

**Ronald Gaelokolwe Samaxa — Assessor for Testing Laboratories Accreditation Scheme**

Mr Ronald Gaelokolwe Samaxa was trained as a Lead Assessor and Technical Assessor under the auspices of under the auspices of the SADC EU EDF 10 Regional Economic Integration Support (REIS) programme in August 2014, which enabled him to be qualified and registered as a SADCAS Technical Assessor, registration number TA / 047 for Testing Laboratories Accreditation Scheme in the Scope “Microbiology” in September 2016.

He underwent the mentoring process in March 2016 and was monitored by Mrs Monica Peart during his first assessment in October 2016 at The Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) Francistown and Maun Laboratories. To date, Mr Samaxa has carried out assessments in Botswana, Zambia and Namibia as a Technical Assessor for ISO/IEC 17025:2005 in the scope “Microbiology”.

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In the implementation of Management System, just by virtue of being an Assessor, it is an honorary status. It encourages active learning especially when the assessment is engaging. It also fosters a number of skills such as critical thinking and reflection. You learn something new in every assessment which continually improves on your skills.

“As much as assessing in the SADC region is so exciting as you interact with different people, with different cultures and acquiring more knowledge during discussions, it also has challenges when you have to cover as much as possible and the facility is sluggish in providing the required evidence of implementation of the ISO/IEC 17025 standard and SADCAS Technical Requirements. However, I am still willing to have more assignments on behalf of SADCAS as I am keen to learn from others, while I also impart knowledge to them”.

Ronald Samaxa, a Motswana, holds a BSc and MPhil in Biological Sciences both from University of Botswana and was registered as SADCAS assessor in 2016 in the scope “Microbiology” having been trained as an ISO/IEC 17025 assessor in 2014 under the auspices of the SADC EU EDF 10 Regional Economic Integration Support (REIS) programme. Ronald Samaxa has over 16 years’ experience working as a Scientific Officer Microbiology at the Botswana National Veterinary Laboratory then at the Water Utilities Corporation where he is currently working as a microbiologist.

Memory Dondofema-Nhimura – Assessor for Medical Laboratories Accreditation Scheme

The sustenance of health and welfare of patients cannot be overemphasized. It is imperative that Medical Laboratories produce accurate results consistently. The recognition of such delivery service through accreditation, not only brings joy to the Laboratory, but also confidence, reliability and assurance is built up in our esteemed patients. Accreditation guarantees competent results within acceptable limits in a consistent and sustainable basis.

Mine has been quite an exciting journey, assuming the role of a SADCAS Technical Assessor effective February 2018 after having undergone a series of assessor courses in South Africa. My first assignment took me to West Africa, in Ghana, what an exciting experience! During this assignment, all assessment team members portrayed remarkable team effort as they worked towards achieving one goal. As I continue as a SADCAS Technical Assessor, this will not only equip me, but give me a zeal to impart and disseminate awareness to others, thereby ensuring transformation of the health delivery systems.

Memory Dondofema Nhimura, a Zimbabwe national, holds a BSc in Medical Laboratory Sciences from University of Zimbabwe and was registered as SADCAS assessor in 2018 in the scope Haematology having been trained as an ISO 15189 assessor in 2016 under the auspices of the SADC EU EDF 10 Regional Economic Integration Support (REIS) programme. Memory Nhimura has over 12 years’ experience working as a medical scientist in haematology in Zimbabwe and mostly in Botswana. She is currently working as a Senior Lecturer in Haematology at the Botswana institute of Health Sciences.
Ms Linda Dirorimwe has been promoted to the position of Training Administrator with effect from 1 July 2018.

In that position, Ms Dirorimwe is responsible for ensuring that training on accreditation related matters is effectively undertaken and includes the coordinating and managing SADCAS external training activities; marketing and promoting SADCAS services; preparing annual budget for training services; managing the pool of Trainers; and interfacing with clients and potential clients.

Ms Dirorimwe joined SADCAS in July 2008 as an Accreditation Administrator when she also doubling up as the Personal Assistant to the SADCAS CEO. Linda as she is affectionately known by all, was instrumental in the setup of SADCAS as she was part of the founding team of SADCAS.

Prior to joining SADCAS Ms Dirorimwe was the Personal Assistant to the Director General Standards Association of Zimbabwe where she interacted with high level international and regional people.

Linda holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing, Advanced Diploma in International Air Transport Association (IATA), a diploma with credit in Public Relations and has undergone several accreditation related training courses since joining SADCAS.

The SADCAS Management wishes Ms Dirorimwe well in her new position.

Mr Mogae Molaoa has been promoted to the position of Accreditation Administrator with effect from 1 July 2018.

In that position, Mr Molaoa is responsible for the overall coordination of the assessment process of the Calibration Laboratories Accreditation Programme, Medical Laboratories Accreditation Programme, Inspection Bodies Accreditation Programme and Certification Bodies Accreditation Programmes which includes implementing assessment plans (issuing notifications to clients for upcoming assessments, organizing travel for assessors, coordinating/managing corrective action by clients, formatting and publishing accreditation certificates and schedules).

He will also be responsible for the management of assessment records, travel and subsistence budget, website maintenance, providing administrative support to SADCAS staff amongst other duties. Mr Molaoa, a Motswana citizen joined SADCAS in 2013 as an intern working in the Technical Unit and was involved in the administration of SADCAS training courses, supporting the Accreditation Administrator in the accreditation process, as well as general office administration.

Mr Molaoa was then appointed as the SADCAS Administrative Assistant, a position he assumed in March 2016 and his duties included providing administrative support such as record keeping, data capturing and document control, and performing regular audits of all the organization’s documents in line with ISO/IEC 17011 standard for Assessment Bodies. Mr Molaoa holds a BA (Hons) in Business Studies from the University of Greenwich.

The SADCAS Management wishes Mr Molaoa well in his new position.
The Botswana National Veterinary Laboratory (BNVL) has been accredited by SADCAS in the scopes: Microbiology, Bacteriology, Histopathology, Virology/Serology and Chemistry. The accreditation covers 2 sites the BNVL and the Botswana Vaccine Institute (BVI) the latter of which was also accredited in the scope Virology/Serology. The accreditation covers 40 tests. Through this accreditation the BNVL has been granted the unique accreditation number VET 003 indicating that BNVL is now a SADCAS accredited testing laboratory. The Botswana National Veterinary Laboratory is the 3rd veterinary laboratory in the 13 SADC Member States excluding South Africa and Mauritius and the 18th facility in Botswana to be accredited by SADCAS. The BNVL certificate which was issued on 20 March 2018 is valid for 5 years and expires on 19 March 2023. During the validity of the certificate SADCAS will undertake surveillance assessments to check continued accreditation.

The certificate was handed over during a ceremony held on 26 July 2018 at the BNVL Offices in Gaborone, Botswana. Guests were welcomed by the Acting Director of Veterinary Services, Dr Motsegwana who in his remarks acknowledged the importance of accreditation in BNVL activities and took the opportunity to outline the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Food Security’s expectations of BNVL in the greatest menace to public health that of antimicrobial resistance. The Deputy Director Veterinary Laboratories, Dr C Marobela-Raborokgwe then gave an overview of the BNVL starting with a background of when the Laboratory was established, the number of staff, the role of the BNVL its main activities and achievements over the years including being the World Health Organization for Animal Health (OIE) Reference Laboratory for bovine lung disease. She then outlined the journey towards accreditation having achieved its first accreditation of 7 test methods in 2007 by the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS). She then shared with guests the challenges faced in the journey towards accreditation such as retention of technical staff, accessibility of PT/ILC as well as cost of participation therein. The Deputy Director Veterinary Laboratories whilst priding in having 40 test methods accredited informed the gathering of the intention to extend scope of accreditation to other test methods. She then concluded her speech by calling upon the Ministry for its continued support in not only maintaining accreditation but also scope extension.

Speaking during the certificate handover ceremony Mrs Maureen P Mutasa, the SADCAS Chief Executive Officer noted that the BNVL had been accredited in 40 test methods covering 5 scopes. “This is the largest scope and test methods that SADCAS has accredited for one facility” she said. Because of the large scope of accreditation, the assessment team comprised of 6 assessors and involved the assessment of 33 Technical signatories with the initial assessment being undertaken over 3 days. She noted that the Department of Veterinary Services under which the NBVL falls covers a wide range of technical disciplines including animal health, veterinary services, research, diagnostics, vector control, training, public health and epidemiology. “At the very core of the Department’s services is the BNVL which provides a key support activity of testing. ISO/IEC 17025 is the international standard that veterinary testing laboratories have to comply with in order to be accredited”, she said. The SADCAS CEO then articulated the importance of accreditation in enhancing the confidence and trust in research results as well as in facilitating trade. “Botswana exports beef to Europe and I am informed that Botswana is also now exporting beef to the Far East. The Botswana Vaccine Institute (BVI) produces and exports a number of vaccines all over Africa one of which is the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccine” she remarked. With the increasing globalization of markets, accreditation is critical to the trading process and in ensuring a level playing field for exports and ensuring that imports meet internationally recognized levels of quality, performance and safety. Mrs Mutasa then advised of the publication in November 2017 of the revised version of ISO/IEC 17025 the international standard that the BNVL have been accredited to. The International laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) has already agreed on a three year transition from date of publication of the revised version of ISO/IEC 17025. SADCAS has already issued a transition policy TR 14 and launched training courses on the new standard end of January 2018. She then urged the BNVL to ensure that they meet the transition timelines so as to maintain the warranted internationally recognized accreditation which they worked so hard for. She then ended her speech with congratulations to BNVL and a welcome to the exclusive club of internationally recognized conformity assessment bodies.

Continued to p 36
In his address the guest of honour, Dr John C Moreki the Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry congratulated the BNVL for the achievement. He acknowledged the importance of standards and accreditation to the national economy highlighting the role that accreditation plays in enhancing competitiveness of products and access to markets thus facilitating trade especially the export of beef to the EU, Vietnam and China. He also informed the guests of the intention of the Government to also export other types of meat such as goat and sheep meat to the United Arab Emirates. "BNVL was the first Government institution to be accredited in 2007 by SANAS and now reaccredited by SADCAS” he said. He then informed the guests about the ongoing restructuring of some government institutions including the BNVL which will now fall under the National Agricultural Research Development Institute (NARDI), a Company established and expected to generate its own income. He emphasized teamwork as the main ingredient to achievements and then concluded his speech by imploring BNVL staff to continuously sharpen their souls for continuous improvement of not only BNVL but for themselves quoting from one of the quality gurus he then said "There can be no improvement where there are no standards”.

After the speech by the guest of honour Mrs Mutasa then handed over the accreditation certificate to Dr John Moreki who in turn handed it over to Dr Marobela-Raborokgwe. A vote of thanks was given by Mr Robert Mackenzie the Quality Manager of the BNVL followed by a prayer from one of the BNVL staff. The handover ceremony was attended by about 60 BNVL management and staff, Government officials, invited guests and the media. The SADCAS CEO was accompanied to the ceremony by Mrs Pinkie Malebe the Coordinator of the Veterinary Testing Laboratories Accreditation Programme. The ceremony was interspaced with music by one the local jazz band and after the ceremony all were invited for lunch.
Namibian Standards Institution Metrology Division
Reaccredited

S

ADCAS is delighted to announce the re-accreditation of the Namibian Standards Institution – Metrology Division. Through this reaccreditation the Namibian Standards Institution – Metrology Division has been re-granted the unique accreditation numbers CAL-8 002 and CAL-9 003 indicating that the Namibian Standards Institution – Metrology Division is accredited in the scope “Mass Metrology” and “Volume Metrology” respectively. The certificates which were reissued on 1 March 2018 are valid for 5 years until 28 February 2023.

The Namibian Standards Institution – Metrology Division was originally accredited on 20 February 2013. The certificate which was issued on 20 February 2013 was valid for 5 years until 19 February 2018. Throughout the validity of the certificate SADCAS undertook annual surveillance assessments based on which Namibian Standards Institution – Metrology Division maintained their accreditation. The reassessment was undertaken from 30 to 31 October 2017.

The certificate was handed over during a ceremony held on 18 May 2018 at Safari Court Hotel in Windhoek, Namibia in conjunction with the World Metrology Day Stakeholder’s Event. The ceremony which was attended by the Board of Directors, management and staff of the Namibian Standards Institution – Metrology Division and other stakeholders was graced by Mr Gabriel Sinimbo, The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development.

Ms Chie Wasserfall the Namibian Standards Institution Chief Executive Officer welcomed all participants to the event during which she also outlined the role played by the Namibian Standards Institution and the importance of accreditation and reaccreditation of the Namibian Standards Institution – Metrology Division. She then expressed her appreciation to the team that had worked tirelessly to maintain the accreditation and achieve reaccreditation.

In her speech before the certificate handover, Ms Jeanne F Ranorovelo, the SADCAS Technical Manager presented the importance and role of accreditation on the national quality infrastructure. Ms Ranorovelo outlined the international context which is based on the essentials elements of a National Quality Infrastructure (Standards, Conformity assessment/Quality assurance, accreditation and Metrology) and the regional context such as in the SADC region where conformity assessment bodies are aware of these elements of the national quality infrastructure but faced challenges due to lack of productive capacity to ensure quality of activities undertaken and conformity to international standards. She also outlined the values and benefits of accreditation to stakeholders who need confidence and reassurance on all activities results or decisions to be made; the facts that accreditation is considered worldwide as the basis of competence and constitutes an important tool not only for consumers in large to get accurate results but also for regulators/governments to meet their responsibilities and to safeguard the public.

After her brief speech, Ms Ranorovelo handed the two accreditation certificates to Mr Gabriel Sinimbo following which the certificates were handed to the Namibian Standards Institution Board and Management. The ceremony ended up with a group photo and the vote of thanks was given by Professor Martha Kandawa-Schulz, the Chairperson of Namibian Standards Council.
First Training on ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Held in Namibia

SADCAS conducted the first 5-day ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements and Internal auditing course in Windhoek, Namibia from 9 to 13 April 2018. A total of 9 participants from Omamanya Laboratory Services, a SADCAS accredited laboratory, and the University of Namibia (UNAM) attended the training which was held at Roof of Africa Hotel.

In her opening remarks the Trainer, Mrs Wedzerai Makaya advised participants that the training would be based on the new ISO/IEC 17025:2017 version published in November 2017. She highlighted that the standard was rearranged with new additional requirements being added to the standard which included risk based thinking, process approach and impartiality.

The training covered the following topics:

- Competence of a laboratory.
- Understanding ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard requirements.
- Developing a suitable Quality Management System.
- Understanding impartiality.
- Basic understanding of method validation and uncertainty of measurement.
- Basic understanding of process approach and risk based thinking.
- Internal auditing tools, techniques and process.
- Maintenance and improvement of a laboratory quality management system.
- Accreditation process.

There was a lot of discussion and interaction throughout the whole training programme which was interspaced with exercises and group work. The group was very eager to acquire knowledge and valuable experience was gained by the participants as confirmed by the feedback from the participants.

On the last day of the training participants wrote an examination in the morning followed by the audit practical session. All the participants thoroughly enjoyed the audit presentation as they were learning from mistakes at their workplaces.

The training was a success and was greatly appreciated by all the participants. The participants promised to go back and implement what they had learnt. Most of the participants were looking forward to be successful internal auditors.

SADCAS Holds Another 5-day ISO 15189 in Francistown, Botswana

SADCAS conducted another 5-day Requirements & Internal auditing training course on ISO 15189 at Adansonia Hotel in Francistown, Botswana from 14 to 18 May 2018. The training was sponsored by Oceanic Upgrades in conjunction with the Ministry of Health & Wellness Botswana and had twenty-five (25) participants from twenty (20) government laboratories and clinics namely: Area W Clinic (1); Athlone Hospital (1); Bobonong Primary Hospital (1); Francistown Regional Blood Transfusion Centre(1); Gantsi Primary Hospital (1); Good Hope Primary Hospital (1); Nyangabgw University Hospital HIV Reference Laboratory (2); Mahalapye District Hospital (2); Masunga Primary Hospital (1); Nyangabgw University Hospital Laboratory (2); Scottish Livingstone Hospital (1); Thamaga Primary Hospital (1); Letsholathebe Memorial Hospital (2); Sbrana Psychiatric Hospital (1); Gumare Primary Hospital (1); and Tonota Clinic (1); Lethakane Primary Hospital (1); National Health Laboratory (1); Mmadinare Primary Hospital (1); and Mabutsane Clinic (1).
In her welcoming remarks Ms Kelly Mokobela, Chief Medical Laboratory Scientist, Nyangabgwe Referral Hospital and Chairman of the SADCAS Advisory Committee welcomed participants highlighting the need for medical scientists to commit themselves to providing better healthcare services to Batswana and wished them well in the course. The SADCAS Administrative Assistant, Mr Mogae Molaoa also gave a brief background about SADCAS and its training courses and introduced the Trainer Dr Farojdeo Hemraj who commenced the course and took participants on a five-day interactive programme.

The training course was concluded with a vote of thanks by Ms Dineo Motsisi from the Ministry of Health & Wellness accompanied by Ms Mokobela. She also thanked the Ministry’s supporting partners, Oceanic Upgrades and SLMTA CDM for the continued support in the development of medical practitioners and declared the course officially closed.

**ZIMPLATS Staff Training on ISO/IEC 17025:2017**

Following the publication of the new ISO/IEC 17025:2017 and realizing the need to transition their accreditation from the ISO/IEC 17025:2005 to the new standard, ZIMPLATS invited SADCAS to train their testing laboratories staff to the new standard. The training was held from 18 to 22 June 2018 at Selous Development Centre in Zimbabwe. Sixteen participants from Selous Complex and Ngezi Laboratories attended the training.

In his opening remarks the General Manager welcomed the SADCAS Trainer and participants. He highlighted the importance of accreditation and its benefits noting that two of their laboratories are accredited by SADCAS to ISO/IEC 17025:2005 standard. The General Manager also noted the importance for ZIMPLATS to train its laboratory personnel to understand the new version of ISO/IEC 17025:2017 in order to maintain their accreditation.
The trainer started off by highlighting the changes in the new standard and inclusion of new topics such as risk and opportunities, process approach and impartiality etc. This was followed by the standard requirements and internal auditing parts. All participants with the exception of one were previously trained on the ISO/IEC 17025:2005 version. The training was lively and interactive as all the participants took part in discussions.

Participants appreciated the training and expressed their eagerness to go back and implement what they had learnt and to align their management system with the new standard. ZIMPLATS thanked SADCAS for organizing this very important training.

**SADCAS Conducted a 5-day ISO/IEC 17025:2017 for ZAMRA Staff**

SADCAS conducted a five-day training on ISO/IEC 17025 for Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) laboratory staff from 25 to 29 June 2018 held at InterContinental Hotel – Lusaka, Zambia. ZAMRA formally the Pharmaceutical Regulatory Authority is the Statutory National Medicines Regulatory Body for Zambia established under an Act of Parliament, the Medicines and Allied Substances Act No. 3 of 2013 of the Laws of Zambia to regulate and control the manufacture, importation, storage distribution, supply, sale and use of medicines and allied substances. The main objective of the Authority is to ensure that all medicines and allied substances being made available to the Zambian people consistently meet the set standards of quality, safety and efficacy. The training was organized by ZAMRA in collaboration with Health System Strengthening Program (HSSP). ZAMRA laboratory is not yet accredited but operates a management system in line with ISO/IEC 17025:2005 version.

The training was opened by Mr Bonaventure Chilinde, Director for Laboratory Services who welcomed all participants and the SADCAS Trainer, Mrs Wedzerai Makaya. In his remarks, Mr Chilinde noted that participants were a team drawn from laboratory officers, inspection and regulatory officers, and an administration officer, all who participate in quality assurance of the organization and for the laboratory. Mr Chilinde indicated that the Laboratory need to attain accreditation based on ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation hence training was key to the process. He outlined the laboratory’s main expectations for the training which included; understanding of the new aspects or requirements to the new standard version, what has changed, why certain things has been added or removed from ISO /IEC 17025:2005 and understanding of the revised standard’s requirements. He encouraged all the participants to take advantage of the vast experience of the Trainer and also encouraged the participants not to miss any session. In response, the Trainer appreciated ZAMRA for supporting SADCAS and indicated that accreditation is the way to go for a laboratory as it provides assurance that the laboratory is producing accurate and credible results.
The two and a half days covered the requirements of new ISO/IEC 17025:2017. The training was highly interactive with a lot of discussion, exercises and group work. This was following by the component on internal auditing tools, techniques and process which was introduced later on the third day. Participants were divided into three groups on developing an audit checklist according to the clauses given. All the participants enjoyed the audit checklist writing exercise.

Judged by the feedback received from participants the training was a success and was greatly appreciated by all the participants.

**SADCAS Holds First Training on Verification/Validation of Methods and Measurement Uncertainty for Botswana CABs.**

SADCAS held training on Verification/Validation of Methods and Measurement Uncertainty Course in Gaborone, Botswana from 23 to 27 July 2018. Fifteen participants (15) from the following organizations attended the training:

- Botswana Institute for Technology, Research & Innovation (BITRI);
- Department of Waste Management & Pollution Control (DWMPC);
- Lenmed Health Bokamosa Private Hospital;
- Diagnofirm Medical Laboratories;
- Nyangabgwe Referral Hospital.

The course was formally opened by Mr Edward Mmatli and Ms Boikhutso Pheto of the Department of Industrial Affairs of the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry who are the National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs), responsible for promoting accreditation and marketing SADCAS service offerings in Botswana.
The Trainer, Mr Mike McNERNEY highlighted the objectives of the course and emphasized the need for full participation by all trainees from the onset so as to achieve learning objectives of individuals, group exercises and class discussions. The training was very intensive and required basic understanding of mathematics. The course covered statistical fundamentals before progressing to relatively advanced concepts of statistical techniques that are used in both method validation/verification and in calculating measurement uncertainty of test results. Practical and group work was interspersed throughout the training programme and consisted of exercises in: Hypothesis testing; t-test applications; ANOVA Analysis; F-Tests; Ruggedness testing; Linearity testing; LOD & LOQ; Measurement uncertainty (Type A & Type B); and a Group Exercise on measurement certainty using real data produced by a fish-testing laboratory.

All trainees participated openly and actively in discussions, individual assignments and group work. The course consisted of a mix of theoretical and practical applications and also included critiques of real examples of validation, verification and measurement uncertainty. The course ended with a two-hour examination on the knowledge assimilated by the trainees.

The course was very successful based on both the feedback from participants and the outcome of the examination. The participants indicated that the training course achieved all its objectives, was very practical and added significantly to their understanding of statistics.

In her closing remarks, Ms Linda Dirorimwe the SADCAS Training Administrator emphasized the importance of participants to utilize the knowledge gained in the pursuit of accreditation of their laboratories and to encourage their colleagues to participate in such courses in the future.
SADCAS Undertakes its First Assessment in French

Following the achievement of signatory status to the International Laboratories Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for Testing/Calibration to ISO/IEC 17025 in October 2015 and for Medical Testing to ISO 15189 and Inspection to ISO/IEC 17020 in October 2017, SADCAS is proud to announce the conduct of its first assessment in French in a testing laboratory based in Democratic Republic of Congo. The assessment was undertaken by a team of SADCAS assessors conversant in both English and French. The assessment team was led by Mrs Rashida Nanhuck with Mrs Varsha Gungoa as technical assessor “Chemistry” both of who are from Mauritius. Prior to achievement of signatory status and whilst SADCAS was developing its pool of assessors who are conversant in French assessments were undertaken jointly with the Tunisian Accreditation Council under the Twinning Partnership Agreement.

SADCAS currently has 7 applications of which 6 are from DRC and one from Cote d’Ivoire all of which are in French. Most of the applications (6) in French fall under the Testing Laboratories Accreditation Scheme whilst one application falls under the Medical Laboratories Accreditation Scheme. Up to date SADCAS has registered a total of 3 Lead assessors and 11 technical assessors who are conversant in French.
New Accreditations

SADCAS is proud to announce the accreditation of more facilities between 1 May and 31 July 2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization &amp; Location</th>
<th>Scheme</th>
<th>Date of Accreditation</th>
<th>New Accreditations</th>
<th>Scopes Extension</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ifakara Health Institute Bagamoyo Branch, Tanzania</td>
<td>Medical to ISO 15189:2012</td>
<td>2018-05-11</td>
<td>MED 022</td>
<td>• Clinical Chemistry</td>
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<td>• Haematology</td>
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<td>• Parasitology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aga Khan Hospital Department of Pathology, Tanzania</td>
<td>Medical to ISO 15189:2012</td>
<td>2018-06-13</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Serology (HBsAg, HCV,</td>
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<td>Syphilis)</td>
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<td>Microbiology (urinalysis)</td>
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<td>Kibong’oto Infectious Disease Hospital, Tanzania</td>
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<td>Centre for Infectious Disease Research, Zambia</td>
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<td>2018-07-05</td>
<td>MED 024</td>
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<td>• Virology</td>
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<td>B &amp; P Scales (Pty) Ltd Swaziland</td>
<td>Calibration to ISO/IEC 17025:2015</td>
<td>2018-07-09</td>
<td>CAL-8 007</td>
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<td>Lancet Laboratories Tanzania Regency Tanzania</td>
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<td>2018-07-27</td>
<td>MED 025</td>
<td>• Chemistry</td>
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<td>• Immunology</td>
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<td>• Microbiology</td>
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<td>Sub-scope Quality manage-</td>
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<td>ment systems</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| National Fish Quality Control Laboratory Nyengezi, Mwanza Tanzania | Chemical Analysis            | 2018-07-25            | TEST-5 0031                         | Chemical analysis of fish |-
|                                                            |                                          |                       |                                     | and water (potable, surface, ground and waste water) |
| Bureau Veritas Mozambique- Nacala Laboratory Nacala-a-Velha Nampula Mozambique | Chemical Analysis            | 2018-07-25            | TEST-5 0032                         | Chemical analysis of coal |-

Continued to p 44
Organization and Location  | Scheme  | Date of Accreditation | New Accreditations | Scopes Extension  
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---  
National Fish Quality Control Laboratory Nyengezi, Mwanza Tanzania  | Chemical Analysis  | 2018-07-25  | TEST-5 0031 Chemical analysis of fish and water (potable, surface, ground and waste water)  |  
Bureau Veritas Mozambique- Nacala Laboratory Nacala-a-Velha Nampula Mozambique  | Chemical Analysis  | 2018-07-25  | TEST-5 0032 Chemical analysis of coal  |  

Joint ISO/IEC 17025 Communiqué

**Joint ISO-ILAC-IAF Communiqué on the Management Systems Requirements of ISO/IEC 17025, General Requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories**

A laboratory's fulfillment of the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025 means the laboratory meets both the technical competence requirements and management system requirements that are necessary for it to consistently deliver technically valid test results and calibrations. The management system requirements in ISO/IEC 17025 are written in language relevant to laboratory operations and operate generally in accordance with the principles of ISO 9001.

ISO Acting Secretary General  
ILAC Chair  
IAF Chair  
April 2017
The Business Benefits of Standards and Accreditation

There are many cases where standards and accredited conformity assessment help businesses of any size and sector reduce costs, increase productivity and access new markets. They can help to:

- Build customer confidence that your products are safe and reliable
- Meet regulation requirements, at a lower cost
- Reduce costs across all aspects of your business
- Gain market access across the world

Business Benefits www.business-benefits.org is a website jointly developed by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), ILAC, International Organization for Standards (ISO), Independent International Organisation for Certification (IIOC), and International Certification Network (IQNet), that showcases these benefits through case studies, research papers, and supporting materials. The examples published on the site cite tangible financial data to evidence the cost savings achieved whether through resource efficiency or meeting regulation at lower cost, the value of accessing new markets, or savings achieved through recognition from organisations such as insurers, regulators or purchasers. The site contains case studies from multinationals such as IBM, Chrysler, and Hitachi to national companies such as Aberdare Cables and Pretoria Portland Cement Company.

The site was launched in October at the ILAC and IAF conference in Vancouver. Additional case studies will be added in the coming months to ensure that it can be a valuable resource to promote the use of standards and accreditation to the business community. The site aims to mirror the success of Public Sector Assurance, a similar site that promotes the value of accreditation to policy makers.
Publication of SADCAS TR 15, 16, 17 and 18

This serves to announce the publication of the following documents by the Southern African Development Community Accreditation Services (SADCAS):

- **SADCAS TR 15 – Contributions to Uncertainty of Measurement in Mass Metrology.** The purpose of this document is specifically to consider contributors to uncertainty of measurements during the process of calibration of weights and weighing instruments.

  This document is applicable to Southern African Development Community Accreditation System (SADCAS) accredited Laboratories.

- **SADCAS TR 16 – Criteria for Laboratory Accreditation in Mass Metrology.** The purpose of this document is to define the specific environmental, general and technical requirements to be met by accredited laboratories in the field of mass metrology.

  This document is applicable to Southern African Development Community Accreditation System (SADCAS) accredited Laboratories. This document does not address the requirements for accreditation of facilities for compliance to national legal metrology legislation.

- **SADCAS TR 17 - Criteria for Validation of Methods Used by Chemical Laboratories and Related Industries.** This document defines the concepts and processes of method validation and to provide technical requirements in order to facilitate a uniform approach to method validation. This document amplifies ISO/IEC 17025 requirements and lists SADCAS requirements applicable to the validation of methods in chemical laboratories.

  These criteria are applicable to chemical testing of Coal, Oil, Petroleum, Metals, Minerals, Food, Pharmaceuticals, Water and related industries.

  Sampling, sample handling and transportation do not form part of this document.

- **SADCAS TR 18 – Criteria for Validation and Quality Assurance in Microbiological Testing.** This document defines the technical requirements for quality control, quality assurance and the validation of methods in microbiological testing laboratories.

  This document contains supplementary requirements for meeting the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025:2017. Whenever doubt may exist, ISO/IEC 17025:2017 remains the authoritative document in establishing the competence of a laboratory to produce valid measurements.

The documents were published on 19 and 24 March 2018 and the date of implementation for these documents is 1 April 2018. All the above documents are available on the SADCAS website [http://www.sadcas.org/document-type/policies-and-procedures](http://www.sadcas.org/document-type/policies-and-procedures).

SADCAS TR 15 and 16 were prepared by the CLAP Advisory Committee (AC.02) and approved by SADCAS on 19 March 2018 whilst TR 17 and 18 were prepared by the TLAP Advisory Committee (AC. 03) and approved by SADCAS on 24 March 2018.
### Upcoming Training Courses - Sept 2018 to March 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>DATE(S)</th>
<th>VENUE COUNTRY/CITY</th>
<th>FEES (BWP)</th>
<th>FEES (USD)</th>
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<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements and Internal Auditing</td>
<td>06 to 10 August 2018</td>
<td>Malawi, Blantyre</td>
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<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements and Internal Auditing</td>
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<td>Botswana, Gaborone</td>
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<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Bridging</td>
<td>27 to 29 September 2018</td>
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<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Internal Auditing</td>
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<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements and Internal Auditing</td>
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<td>Moma, Mozambique</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Awareness</td>
<td>October 2018</td>
<td>Angola, Luanda</td>
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<td>TBA</td>
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<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Bridging</td>
<td>02 - 04 October 2018</td>
<td>Angola, Luanda</td>
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<td>Method Validation &amp; Measurement Uncertainty</td>
<td>(TBA) October 2018</td>
<td>Swaziland, Mbabane</td>
<td>8,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 15189:2012 Requirements and Internal Auditing</td>
<td>22 – 26 October 2018</td>
<td>Botswana, Gaborone</td>
<td>8,900</td>
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<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements and Internal Auditing</td>
<td>22 – 26 October 2018</td>
<td>Lesotho, Maseru</td>
<td>8,900</td>
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<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements and Internal Auditing</td>
<td>05 – 09 November 2018</td>
<td>Mozambique, Maputo</td>
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<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17020:2012 Awareness</td>
<td>05 November 2018</td>
<td>Swaziland, Mbabane</td>
<td>Inhouse</td>
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<td>ISO/IEC 17020:2012 Requirements and Internal Auditing</td>
<td>06 – 10 November 2018</td>
<td>Swaziland, Mbabane</td>
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<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements and Internal Auditing</td>
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<td>Zimbabwe, Harare</td>
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<td>ISO/IEC 15189:2012 Requirements and Internal Auditing</td>
<td>(TBA) February 2019</td>
<td>Gaborone, Botswana</td>
<td>8,900</td>
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<td>Method Validation &amp; Measurement Uncertainty</td>
<td>(TBA) February 2019</td>
<td>Gaborone, Botswana</td>
<td>8,900</td>
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<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements and Internal Auditing</td>
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<td>Gaborone, Botswana</td>
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<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements and Internal Auditing</td>
<td>04 – 09 March 2019</td>
<td>Namibia, Windhoek</td>
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To register for any of the above open courses please download SADCAS F 70 (b) - Training Booking Form from SADCAS website: [http://www.sadcas.org/sadc-as-forms-english?page=2](http://www.sadcas.org/sadc-as-forms-english?page=2) or contact SADCAS at info@sadcas.org for more information.
SADCAS Training Courses

The Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) provides training for conformity assessment bodies’ management and staff. Conformity assessment bodies (CABs) include calibration/testing laboratories, medical laboratories, certification and inspection bodies.

SADCAS Trainers
SADCAS draws its trainers from a pool of qualified and experienced experts from the SADC region who have up to date involvement in accreditation matters be it system implementation and/or assessments.

Training Programmes
SADCAS currently offers the following accreditation training courses:

Five-Day Requirements and Internal Auditing Training Courses on the Various Key Accreditation Standards

- ISO 15189 Requirements and Internal Auditing for medical laboratories
- ISO 15189:2012 Requirements and Internal Auditing [Bridging course] for medical laboratories
- ISO/IEC 17020 Requirements and Internal Auditing for inspection bodies
- ISO/IEC 17021 Requirements and Internal Auditing for management systems certification bodies
- ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements and Internal auditing for calibration/testing laboratories

The objective of the 5-day courses is to provide an insight into the respective system standard’s requirements and implementation as well as to guide CAB’s personnel on how to prepare and carry-out an internal audit so as to monitor compliance with the system standard. These courses are made relevant and practical as they include case studies and exercises that reflect the respective professional disciplines. In order to objectively assess participants, an examination is written at the end of each course. Participants are also evaluated throughout the course.

Three-Day ISO/IEC 17025 International Auditing

The objective of the 3-day training course is to impart internal auditing knowledge and skills to laboratory staff. The course covers the following main topics:

- Introduction to Auditing
- The Audit process
- Reporting and corrective actions
- Auditor competence
- Benefits of an auditing

Three-day ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Bridging Course to the new standard

One-day Awareness Training Courses on the Various Key Accreditation Standards

- ISO 15189 for medical laboratories
- ISO/IEC 17020 for inspection bodies
- ISO/IEC 17025 for calibration/testing laboratories

The objective of the one day awareness training courses is to create awareness on the benefits and importance of accreditation and the requirements of the respective accreditation standards.

The SADCAS courses can be conducted in-house. In-house courses have the following benefits:

- You choose the venue of the course in
- You choose the date of the course
- Cost effective as a number of staff can be trained at the same time
- Promotes team work as members have access to the same consistent information

For more details please contact SADCAS
Email: info@sadcas.org
### Status of Key Accreditation Standards and IAF/ILAC Documents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STANDARD</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC CD 17000</td>
<td>Conformity assessment – Vocabulary and general principles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC TS 17021-5:2014</td>
<td>Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems – Part 5 Competence requirements for auditing and certification of asset management systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC TS 17021-6:2014</td>
<td>Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems – Part 6 Competence requirements for auditing and certification of business continuity management systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC TS 17021-7:2014</td>
<td>Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems – Part 7 Competence requirements for auditing and certification of road traffic safety management systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC CD TS 17021-8</td>
<td>Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems – Part 8 Competence requirements for auditing and certification of management systems for sustainable development in communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17024:2012</td>
<td>Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STANDARD</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17024:2012 Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons</td>
<td>Close of review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC DIS 17029 Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies performing validation and verification activities</td>
<td>DIS registered</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC WD TR 17032 Conformity assessment – Guidelines and examples of a certification scheme for processes</td>
<td>Working draft (WD) study initiated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/CD TS 17033 Conformity assessment – Ethical claims, Labels and supporting information – Requirements</td>
<td>Committee draft (CD) registered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILAC G 28:07/2018 Guideline for the formulation of scopes of accreditation for inspection bodies</td>
<td>The aim of this document is to assist ABs in consistently meeting the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011:2017 associated with scopes of accreditation for inspection body accreditation and to encourage an effective and harmonized approach to scopes among ABs in relation to ISO/IEC 17020:2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAF PL 4:2018 Rules for IAF Membership Fees</td>
<td>Issue 5, published on 23 July 2018, application from 23 July 2018 This document sets out the rules for calculating and collecting fees for IAF members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAF MD 4:2018 IAF Mandatory document for the use of information and communication technology (ICT) for auditing/assessment purposes</td>
<td>Issue 2, published on 04 July 2018, application from 04 July 2019 This document provides for the consistent application when using information and communication technology (ICT) as part of the auditing/assessment methodology. The document covers the auditing/assessment of management systems, persons, and product and is applicable to conformity assessment bodies and accreditation bodies. The use of ICT is not mandatory and may be used for other types of conformity assessment activities, but if used as part of the audit/assessment methodology, it is mandatory to conform to this document.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAF MD 23:2018 Control of entities operating on behalf of accredited management systems certification bodies.</td>
<td>Issue 1 published on 8 May 2018 The document relates to entities, performing and/or managing management system certification activities, on behalf of certification bodies (CBs) holding accreditation, which are not wholly or partly owned or employed by the CB. The entities may or may not be located in the same country as the CB head office and may be a representative, agency, franchisee or sales office of the CB or any entity which has a contractual relationship with the CB for performing certification activities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STANDARD</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
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</table>
| **ILAC G28:07/2018** Guideline for the Formulation of Scopes of Accreditation of Inspection Bodies. | Issue1 published in July 2018
The purpose of this publication is to assist accreditation bodies in consistently meeting the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011:2017 associated with scopes and to encourage an effective and harmonized approach to scopes among Accreditation Bodies in relation to ISO/IEC 17020:2012. |
| **IAF PR 5:2018** Procedure for handling applications for MOU Membership in IAF | Issue 2, published on 13 June 2018, application from 13 June 2018
This document describes procedures to be followed in the processing of applications from ABs, Industry and Certification Body Associations, and Regional groups for MOU membership in IAF |

**Diary of Upcoming Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>MEETINGS</th>
<th>VENUE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16-19 July 2018</td>
<td>6th AFSEC General Assembly</td>
<td>Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-20 July 2018</td>
<td>12th AFRIMETS General Assembly</td>
<td>Enugu, Nigeria</td>
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<tr>
<td>19-20 July 2018</td>
<td>SADC Senior Officials meetings</td>
<td>Pretoria, South Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 July 2018</td>
<td>SADC CMT Meeting</td>
<td>Pretoria, South Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 September 2018</td>
<td>SADCAS HRRC Meeting</td>
<td>Johannesburg, South Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 September 2018</td>
<td>SADCAS FRAC Meeting</td>
<td>Johannesburg, South Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 September 2018</td>
<td>SADCAS Board of Directors</td>
<td>Johannesburg, South Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 2018</td>
<td>8th Advisory Committee for Inspection Bodies in Zimbabwe</td>
<td>Harare, Zimbabwe</td>
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<tr>
<td>24-28 September 2018</td>
<td>AFRAC General Assembly</td>
<td>Mauritius</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-10 October 2018</td>
<td>NLA T &amp; M Conference and Workshop</td>
<td>Western Cape, South Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-10 October 2018</td>
<td>CASCO WG49 17000 Revision</td>
<td>Geneva, Switzerland</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 October 2018</td>
<td>National Accreditation Focal Points Annual Meeting</td>
<td>Pretoria, South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-12 October 2018</td>
<td>UNIDO National Laboratory Association - National Accreditation Focal Points Meeting</td>
<td>Pretoria, South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 October 2018</td>
<td>World Standards Day</td>
<td>Worldwide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-26 October 2018</td>
<td>ILAC/IAF General Assembly</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Invitation to Register as SADCAS Assessors

The Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) invites qualified assessors to be registered as SADCAS assessors for its testing/calibration/medical laboratories, and certification (management systems/product)/inspection bodies’ accreditation programmes. SADCAS’ strategy over the next few years is to grow its pool of assessors so as to cover the anticipated scopes of accreditation, and the geographical and language diversity in the SADC region of which 13 Member States are serviced by SADCAS.

Assessors are experts from the public and private sectors as well as from technical institutions/associations who have been trained, qualified and registered as assessors by an accreditation body.

SADCAS will review and evaluate all applications to ensure that the assessors have the prerequisite qualifications, technical knowledge and experience required by SADCAS.

Applications shall be addressed to:
Ms Jeanne F Ranorovelo
Technical Manager
P Bag 00320
Gaborone, Botswana
Email: jfranorovelo@sadcas.org; info@sadcas.org