

For Immediate Release

AFRAC ACHIEVES RECOGNITION AT ILAC AND IAF

22 May 2018: AFRAC (African Region Accreditation Cooperation) has today achieved recognition status to the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) Multi-Lateral Arrangement (MLA). This comes 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 :
 - Management Systems (ISO/IEC 17021-1: For sub-scopes Quality Management Systems (QMS) and Environmental Management Systems (EMS)
- Recognition of the AFRAC MRA to the ILAC MRA be granted for the following accreditation programs :
 - 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 fulfilment 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 than now when more than forty African Countries signed a historic trade agreement 'The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)' paving way for a liberalised market for goods and services across the continent hence the need for recognised 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 southern Africa), SANAS-South Africa and TUNAC –Tunisia.

Congratulations AFRAC as you bring your Motto to light

“Confidence & Trust”



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