

# SADCAS Accredits First Management Systems Certification Body

The Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) is proud to announce the accreditation of the **Standards Association of Zimbabwe Certification Services (SAZ Certification Services)** in the scopes: Quality Management Systems; Environmental Management Systems; and Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems in accordance with ISO/IEC 17021-1: 2015. This makes **Standards Association of Zimbabwe Certification Services** the first management systems certification body to be accredited by SADCAS. Through this accreditation, **Standards Association of Zimbabwe Certification Services** has been granted the unique accreditation numbers **QMS-CERT 001** (ISO 9001:2008 and 2015), **EMS-CERT 001** (ISO 14001:2004 and 14001:2015) and **OHS-CERT 001** (OHSAS 18001: 2007) indicating that **SAZ Certification Services** is now a SADCAS accredited management system certification body.

The SADCAS Certification Bodies Accreditation Programme – Management Systems (CBAP- MS) was established in June 2010 and is operated in accordance with ISO/IEC 17011: Conformity assessment – General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies.

Certification bodies provide conformity certificates to organizations for their management systems, products as well as personnel. Third party management systems certification is a frequently specified requirement to operate in the global market place. Third party management system certification can demonstrate compliance to a standard, code of practice or regulatory requirements. Management System certification bodies are accredited to the international standard, ISO/IEC 17021-1: Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems – Part 1: Requirements. The standard sets out principles and requirements for the competence, consistency and impartiality of audit and certification of management systems of all types (e.g. quality/environmental/occupational health and safety management systems/) and for bodies providing these activities. Accreditation which is an independent evaluation of management systems certification bodies against ISO/IEC 17021-1 by an authoritative body, in this case SADCAS, confirms the competence, consistency and impartiality of the certification body.

Throughout the world many countries now rely on accreditation as a means of independently evaluating competence of certification bodies. There are many reasons why you should use the services of an accredited management systems certification body.

- **De – risk your procurement** by taking the guesswork out of choosing a certification body. Accreditation gives you confidence that you will get the service that best meets your requirements.
- **Win new business** particularly since the use of accredited conformity assessment services is increasingly a requirement in both the public and private sector.
- **Control costs** with the help of knowledge transfer since the accredited certification body can be a good source of impartial advice.
- **Demonstrate due diligence** in the event of legal action.
- **Reduce paperwork and increase efficiency** by reducing the necessity to re audit your business.
- **Gain access to international market.** SADCAS CBAP – MS is operated in accordance with ISO/IEC 17011.

SADCAS has another 3 management systems certification bodies at the various stages of processing.

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