

SADCAS HOLDS 9TH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING FOR INSPECTION BODIES IN ZIMBABWE

SADCAS held the 9th Advisory Committee meeting for Inspection Bodies in Zimbabwe on 19 September 2019 at the Standards Association of Zimbabwe Boardroom in Harare, Zimbabwe. The meeting was attended by 20 members from inspection bodies, regulators, users, academic institutions, inspectors and the National Accreditation Focal Point (NAFP). The purpose of the meeting was to provide update on developments in SADCAS and in ILAC Inspection Committee, to review draft 2 of the National Criteria for accreditation of inspection bodies performing inspection of Lifting Equipment and Lifting Gear, to familiarize members on the accreditation for scope extension to Manufacturing scope, to agree on the References Codes as applicable for in-service inspection and manufacturing scopes and to explain to members the SADCAS accreditation fee structure.



9th AC meeting in session

Ms Ranorvelo, the SADCAS Technical Manager reminded members that draft 1 of the National Criteria for Lifting Equipment was presented during the 8th AC meeting held on 12 September 2018 by Mr Godwell Zimondi, the Convenor of the Working Group (WG) tasked to develop the national criteria for Lifting Equipment. During the meeting it was agreed to change the title of the document to “National criteria for the accreditation of inspection bodies performing inspection of the Lifting Gear” and that draft 2 should be submitted to SADCAS in time for review and circulation to members for comment and further review at the 9th meeting. Mr Zimondi presented the draft 2 of the document highlighting where changes had been made. The whole document was reviewed during the meeting and the following were discussed:

- The objective of the document was to develop the national criteria for the accreditation of inspection bodies performing inspection of the lifting gear in Zimbabwe. It was noted that the application of this document is for Zimbabwe and the title should reflect the name of the country “Zimbabwe”. Since SADCAS is establishing an Inspection Advisory Committee (AC) for the SADC Member States serviced by SADCAS, once finalized, the criteria document could be considered for adoption/adaption by the regional AC for use in the other SADC Member States.
- It was noted that the criteria for Lifting equipment and criteria for Lifts should be different and it was not clear if the document was related to Lifting equipment or to Lifts. To this regard, it was mentioned that as defined in the Zimbabwe regulations, lifting gear covers a wide range of items. It was then proposed that the document covers both Lifting equipment and Lifting gear, and agreed during the meeting to refer both Lifting equipment and Lifting gear in the whole document.

- It was further noted that only in-service inspection was considered in the document and requested that the inspection of installations also be included. It was agreed during the meeting to add the inspection of installations.
- Other issues on the definitions and competency of the personnel involved were also discussed and are to be reviewed by the WG when finalizing draft 3 of the document.

After the discussions, the following were agreed:

- SADCAS need to provide to the WG copy of document from Emirates International Accreditation Centre that deals with the same topic by 20 September 2019;
- The WG should prepare draft 3 incorporating comments from the meeting by 20 October 2019;
- The Convenor need to submit draft 3 of the document to the National Social Security Authority of Zimbabwe the delegated authority for occupational health and safety issues in Zimbabwe (NSSA) for their inputs by 30 October 2019;
- The Convenor need to submit a copy of draft 3 to the Ministry of Mines for information and possible inputs;
- The WG should review NSSA inputs and incorporate them accordingly in the document by 15 November 2019;
- The Convenor should submit draft 4 of the document to SADCAS by 30 November 2019 following which SADCAS will prepare the final draft to be circulated to all members for final review and comments then approval; and
- Publication of the Criteria for the accreditation of inspection bodies performing inspection of lifting equipment and lifting gear in Zimbabwe by 28 February 2020.

A presentation was made by Mr Paulo Pereira, a SADCAS Team Leader under the inspection bodies accreditation scheme, to re-familiarize members on the accreditation process for scope extension to manufacturing. The presentation also explained the documents that are supposed to be submitted by the inspection body for scope extension to Manufacturing where an inspection body is already accredited in the scope "In-service" and the processes that the Scheme Coordinator has to undertake before the assessment for scope extension. The Team Leader Mr Pereira made another presentation on the reference codes used for accreditation of Pressure Equipment (in-service inspection and manufacturing scopes which was followed by extensive discussions during which it was agreed to list all the acceptable standards and to send them to all inspection bodies to identify the standards applicable to their respective activities who in turn shall then notify SADCAS about the applicable standards. Compliance to relevant applicable standards shall be assessed by SADCAS during the next periodic on-site assessments of inspection bodies scheduled to be held in March 2020 following which Schedules of Accreditation shall be reviewed after confirmation of references codes applicable for the scope(s) of accreditation.

The SADCAS CEO, Mrs Maureen Mutasa made a presentation on SADCAS accreditation costs. The objective of the presentation was to promote an understanding of the SADCAS Fee structure. Mrs Mutasa outlined the SADCAS Fee Structure, the SADCAS fee increases over the past 10 years, the strategies for competitiveness of SADCAS fees and the way to determine the cost of accreditation which take into consideration a number of factors such as scope(s) of accreditation, number of parameters to be assessed, assessor fees, travel and subsistence of assessors. Mrs Mutasa added that to promote this understanding, a communiqué was issued by SADCAS, forwarded to all CABs accredited and under process by SADCAS and uploaded on the website; a comparison of accreditation fees was made with other accreditation bodies which showed that SADCAS fees are competitive. In conclusion, Mrs Mutasa made clear that SADCAS service fees are priced to recover all direct and indirect costs associated with the accreditation services offered. Accreditation is an investment and not a cost as it is now a global market requirement and also provides a number of benefits such as demonstration of competence to internal and external clients, guarantee for reliable test results, increase of reliability of products, reduction of costs associated with repetitive testing and minimization of lost time, facilitation of trade and economic growth.

The AC members were also given an update on developments in SADCAS highlighting the re-evaluation of SADCAS held from 27 May to 1 June 2019 and the progress thus far at the time of the meeting. She then thanked all the

inspection bodies that had been witnessed during the evaluation of SADCAS and all assessors/technical experts who participated in the assessment team. An update on developments at the ILAC Inspection Committee was also given.

The 9th Advisory Committee meeting which was very ably chaired by Eng. Ngoni Chirinda ended at 13:15 hours with a vote of thanks to the Chair after which members proceeded to lunch.

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