

SADCAS ACCREDITIS THIRD CERTIFICATION BODY: MALAWI BUREAU OF STANDARDS – MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS CERTIFICATION

SADCAS proudly announces the accreditation of the Malawi Bureau of Standards in the Main Scope Management Systems Certification (ISO/IEC 17021-1), Sub-scope Quality Management Systems (ISO/IEC 17021-3), QMS (ISO 9001:2015). This makes Malawi Bureau of Standards – Management Systems Certification the third certification body to be accredited by SADCAS. Through this accreditation, Malawi Bureau of Standards – Management Systems Certification has been granted the unique accreditation number **QMS-CERT 003**, indicating that Malawi Bureau of Standards – Management Systems Certification is now a SADCAS accredited management system certification body. The certificate which was issued on 12 August 2019 expires on 11 August 2024.

The SADCAS Certification Bodies Accreditation Scheme – Management Systems (CBAS - 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. The SADCAS CBAS - MS is internationally recognized having achieved signatory status in the International Accreditation Forum Multi Lateral Arrangement (IAF MLA) in November 2019. 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) for bodies providing these activities. Accreditation, which is an independent evaluation of management systems certification bodies 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 the services of an accredited management systems certification body should be used:

- Gain access to international market. SADCAS CBAS – MS is operated in accordance with ISO/IEC 17011:2017 and is internationally recognised following SADCAS' achievement of signatory status to IAF MLA for Certification bodies to ISO/IEC 17021-1 and ISO/IEC 17021-3, Sub-scope QMS (ISO 9001:2015) in November 2019.
- 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. IAF has established *CertSearch*, a global certification database which houses and authoritatively validates accredited certifications issued all over the world.
- 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.

SADCAS has one application from a management systems certification body that is currently under process.

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