

SADCAS Undergoes Peer Evaluation

SADCAS went through a joint AFRAC/ILAC extraordinary peer evaluation for scope extension to medical testing (ISO 15189) and inspection (ISO/IEC 17020). The peer evaluation was conducted from 14 to 19 May 2017 with office evaluation being undertaken at SADCAS Offices in Gaborone and all witnessing in Zimbabwe. The evaluation was conducted in accordance with, and against the requirements specified in AFRAC M001 and IAF/ILAC A2, by a team of 2 members Mr Mahmoud Eltayeb as the team leader and member responsible for inspection (ISO/IEC 17020) and Mrs Shelli Turner as the team member responsible for testing (ISO 15189). Two AFRAC trainee evaluated also participated in the peer evaluation with Mr Mohamed Habib Testouri as Trainee evaluator for Inspection and Mr Getnet Tsigemelak as Trainee for Medical.

The peer evaluation started off with an opening meeting on Sunday 14 May 2017. The opening meeting was attended by all SADCAS staff. The office evaluation was undertaken on Sunday, Monday and Thursday. The witnessing of the Inspection Bodies Accreditation Programme (IBAP) was undertaken on Monday and Tuesday whilst the witnessing for the Medical Laboratories Accreditation Programme (MLAP) was undertaken on Tuesday and Wednesday. For the IBAP the peer evaluators witnessed 2 surveillance assessment of Gammatec Inspection Services and Standards Association of Zimbabwe – Inspection Unit whilst the an initial assessments of the National Microbiology Reference Laboratory in Zimbabwe was witnessed on Tuesday and Wednesday. The peer evaluators also held meetings with the Chairman of SADC Cooperation in Metrology (SADCMET) Mr Shadreck Kajane and NAFP–Botswana, Mr Edward Mmatli.

The closing meeting was held on Friday 19 February 2017 with the team confirming that the overall system of SADCAS is in accordance with the requirements of AFRAC M002 and ILAC- P5 and in particular that SADCAS operates its medical testing laboratories and inspection bodies' accreditation programmes substantially in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011 and IAF/ILAC-A5. The team also confirmed that SADCAS's full time staff members are skilled and technically qualified for the functions they perform, and the organization has a satisfactory foundation of accreditation experience. SADCAS has access to a sufficient number of qualified, experienced and competent assessors and experts. In particular the team was impressed with what SADCAS had achieved with such a small team of staff and also the teamwork at SADCAS as witnessed with how we were organized for the peer evaluation. Overall, the assessments witnessed were of a high standard in terms of their scope and depth. The evaluation team was impressed with the expertise and commitment of SADCAS staff and assessment team; the quality and thoroughness of assessments; knowledge of; adherence to procedures. The team raised 3 NCs and a number of concerns and comments.



From Left to right Mr Eltayeb, Mrs S Turner, Mr Testouri and Mr Tsigemelak during the closing meeting



SADCAS Management and staff during the closing meeting



Management staff and peer evaluators during closing meeting

The peer evaluation was very thorough with both the evaluators going into a lot of detail which will no doubt be useful for improvement purposes. Speaking during the closing meeting the SADCAS CEO noted that all the findings raised are in our control and that SADCAS will start working on corrective action to address all the findings soon after the peer evaluation with the hope of achieving the signatory status for inspection and Testing (medical) at the 2017 annual meetings of AFRAC and ILAC scheduled to be held in September and October respectively.

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