

Press Release



World Accreditation Day 2017

Accreditation: Delivering Confidence in Construction and the Built Environment

June 9, marks World Accreditation Day (WAD) as a global initiative jointly established by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) to raise awareness of the importance of accreditation-related activities. The inaugural WAD was celebrated in 2008.

The theme for 2017 World Accreditation Day is **“Accreditation: Delivering Confidence in the Construction and the Built Environment”**. World Accreditation Day 2017 focuses on how accreditation delivers confidence in construction and the built environment. Standards, conformity assessment and accreditation are well-established and accepted tools that are used to support the construction industry, building owners and operators from contractors to manufacturers, designers and architects, to structural and civil engineers. They are also used by policy makers, local authorities and regulators to support construction-based regulation, environmental protection, public safety, fraud prevention, public trust and innovation.

The building sector is important for economic development, employment creation and the environment. In less developed economies, existing commercial and domestic properties, as well as infrastructure projects such as roads, bridges and transport networks, tend to be highly vulnerable to climate and disaster risk. In more developed economies, construction is a complex and highly competitive sector, which provides challenges for companies seeking to improve margins, and reduce costs whilst improving build quality, ensuring a safe environment on site and delivering increasingly sustainable buildings. The digital revolution is also reaching the construction sector with Building Information Modelling for the design of structures, to the embedding of smart and connected technology in construction components.

Construction supply chains are being impacted by the pace of urbanisation, technological advances in manufacturing and construction techniques, environmental pressures, changes in design preferences, and evermore globalisation of supply chains.

Given these factors, it is critical that the public have confidence in the safety, security, and sustainability of construction projects and the built environment. Accreditation provides this confidence by providing a system that

supports the management of risk, helps drive efficiency, and demonstrates compliance with national or local regulation. Accredited testing, calibration, inspection and certification provide suppliers, purchasers and specifiers with assurance that construction projects run efficiently, construction sites are safe and reliable materials are used. They also provide Government and Regulators with reliable evidence that completed projects meet regulatory compliance, and existing buildings continue to be safe to use.

Accreditation covers many disciplines throughout the building supply chain. **Laboratories** are accredited to **test** construction products and raw materials, geotextiles, engineering materials, machinery and structures, acoustics, and air leakage testing. **Calibration laboratories** specialise in acoustics, dimensional, mass, density, volume, force, torque hardness, electrical, pressure, fluids, temperature and humidity calibration.

Accredited **certification of Quality, Environmental, Occupational Health & Safety, and Energy Management Systems** ensure that construction companies have the appropriate controls and processes in place to deliver projects efficiently, control their environmental impact and energy efficiency, and deliver a safe working environment.

Inspection bodies carry out construction-related activities such as welding and welding procedures, pressure vessels, piping, and gas, electrical safety, lifting equipment and the carriage of dangerous goods. Accreditation also covers inspection services in areas such as asbestos surveying and legionella risk assessments.

A brochure giving more details of how accreditation delivers confidence in construction and the built environment is available for download from the IAF and ILAC websites. Further case studies, research and support material is available at <http://www.publicsectorassurance.org/topic-areas/construction>. Links to the IAF and ILAC websites and public sector assurances site are provided on the SADCAS website.

The Southern African Development Community Accreditation Services (SADCAS) is a multi-economy accreditation body established to meet the accreditation needs of SADC Member States especially those without own national accreditation bodies namely: Angola; Botswana; Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC); Lesotho; Madagascar; Malawi; Mozambique; Namibia; Seychelles; Swaziland; Tanzania; Zambia; and Zimbabwe. SADCAS' mission is to provide credible, cost effective, accreditation services for SADC Member States aimed at supporting trade, enhance the protection of consumers and the environment and improve the competitiveness of SADC products and services in both the voluntary and regulatory areas. SADCAS provides accreditation services and training on accreditation associated activities. SADCAS offers accreditation programs for calibration/ testing/ medical laboratories, and certification and inspection bodies. SADCAS is signatory to the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for testing and calibration (ISO/IEC 17025) thus the accreditation certificates issued by SADCAS on these accreditation programmes are internationally recognized. SADCAS is set to undergo peer evaluation to extend its signatory status to Medical (ISO 15189) and Inspection (ISO/IEC 17020).

To commemorate 2017 World Accreditation Day a number of activities are lined up in various SADC Countries serviced by SADCAS which include conferences, workshops and, press and television coverages. This press release is also part of efforts to raise awareness on the role of accreditation in delivering confidence in construction and the built environment.

For more information please visit the SADCAS website www.sadcas.org

OR

Contact

The National Accreditation Focal Point in your country