



SNAS

SLOVAK NATIONAL ACCREDITATION SERVICE
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Decision of the Director
RR-P9

**SNAS POLICY ON ACCREDITATION OF
INSPECTION BODIES**

Approved by: **Ing. Jozef Obernauer**
Director

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Signature

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**PURPOSE:**

This document determines SNAS policy on accreditation of inspection bodies.

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1 SNAS POLICY ON ACCREDITATION OF INSPECTION BODIES

- 1.1 Assessing entities seeking accreditation for performance of inspection activities, SNAS is governed by provisions of STN EN ISO/IEC 17020 “General criteria for performance of various types bodies performing inspection”. Requirements of the Standard ISO/IEC 17020 inspection bodies seeking accreditation should meet in compliance with relevant EA documents, in international standards or generally valid documents of international organizations as well as in methodological guidelines for accreditation issued by SNAS.
- 1.2 Results of inspection bodies accredited by SNAS are recognized in all over the world based on multilateral agreements on mutual recognition signed between SNAS and EA (European co-operation for Accreditation) – EA MLA (Multilateral Agreement).
- 1.3 Organizations performing also other activities than inspection (manufacture, sale, certification, testing, calibration etc.) have to show consistent meeting of conditions of impartiality, objectivity and non-discriminatory approach in compliance with requirements of STN EN ISO/IEC 17020, in order to be clear that these other activities do not compromise the independence and inspection results.
- 1.4 Inspection body has to be independent in range of required conditions under which it performs its services. Inspection bodies are classified into types A, B, C according to level of their independence.
- 1.5 When assessing inspection bodies that have more sites, SNAS proceeds according to sampling procedures adopted representing a sample of sites, witness assessments, inspection items and inspectors in order to ensure appropriate evaluation of assessed entity competence.
- 1.6 During the first assessment, all inspection body’s sites are assessed where one or more key inspection activity are performed (policy formulation, processes development and/or procedures, contracts review, inspection planning, review, approving and decision-making on inspection results) and all items of inspection. Inspectors from the all items of inspection are assessed.
- 1.7 A part of each accreditation assessment is witness assessment for all items of inspection performance (observation of the inspector performance).
- 1.8 After granting accreditation SNAS performs yearly planned surveillance over accredited inspection bodies; during accreditation certificate validity verifies whether the inspection body permanently meets all accreditation requirements related to its accredited activities. During surveillance and re-accreditation, the inspection body is assessed in such a way that, using sampling procedures, sites, inspection items and inspectors were assessed within validity period of granted accreditation certificate.

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- 1.9** All mentioned principles related to accreditation apply for re-accreditation of inspection bodies, however for re-accreditation information on accredited inspection bodies from previous accreditation cycle are taken into account and witness assessment is performed only in selected items of inspection.
- 1.10** SNAS performs accreditation extension of inspection bodies analogously to accreditation principles. Accreditation extension can concern new activities within already accreditation scope or new accreditation scope of the inspection body.
- 1.11** Extraordinary surveillance over accredited inspection body is performed proportionally to the incentive, flexibly, in the shortest time possible after incentive was given, at the date fixed by a client if the incentive originates from the client or fixed by SNAS if the surveillance is performed from SNAS or a third party incentive. In case of need SNAS which initiated the surveillance can the incentive scope flexibly extend.

2 RELATED DOCUMENTS

ISO/IEC 17011: General requirement for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies

SNAS QM

IP-2: Preparation and management of the assessment

MSA 04: Procedure for accreditation

MSA I/01: Accreditation scope and Scope specification of accreditation of inspection bodies

MSA I/02: GUIDANCE ON THE APPLICATION OF ISO/IEC 17020 (IAF/ILAC-A4:2004)

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