

Policy**PL-27****SNAS POLICY FOR ACCREDITATION OF
PROFICIENCY TESTING ORGANIZERS**

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Director

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PURPOSE:

This document determines the SNAS policy for accreditation of proficiency testing organizers.

Note: The term proficiency testing in the context of this policy means all interlaboratory comparisons for evaluation of the outcomes of comparisons in terms of the proficiency of the participating conformity assessment body.

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1 SNAS POLICY ON ACCREDITATION OF PROFICIENCY TESTING (PT) ORGANIZERS

- 1.1 SNAS generally assess compliance with the requirements of the current version of ISO / IEC 17043 and use relevant policies and methodological guidelines for accreditation issued by SNAS in assessing the competence of the organizers of proficiency testing,
- 1.2 Accreditation Certificate number (X-xxx) form letter abbreviations X expressing scope of accreditation and a three-digit number xxx.
- 1.3 If the PT organizer granted accreditation to ISO/IEC 17043, issued accreditation certificate has identified scope of accreditation by the letter T. In the SNAS list of accredited CAB, it will be referred to as PT organizer.
- 1.4 Assessment of the competency to organize proficiency testing, also requirements and recommendations of relevant standards, documents or guidelines such as ISO 13528 and other documents related to ensuring continuation of measurements and other specialized activities related to PT organizing are taken into account.
- 1.5 SNAS consistently pays attention that applicants for accreditation in proficiency testing meet requirements for impartiality, openness, objectiveness and non-discrimination as well as avoiding conflicts of interest. The policy and procedures of the applicants shall include all factors that may influence their competence, impartiality and integrity (ownership relations and interests, organizational aspects, decision-making procedures, financial matters, personnel, etc.).
- 1.6 SNAS accredits PT organizers who have accredited laboratories or who have non-accredited laboratories or who have no laboratories or who have outsourced laboratory services. In the case when organizer has non-accredited laboratories or laboratory services has outsourced is obliged to ensure and have relevant evidence of proving that the relevant requirements of the ISO/IEC 17025 Standard are met. In the event of all the above mentioned alternatives, the organizer shall make sure that the laboratories not only meet requirements of the ISO/IEC 17025 Standard but also specific requirements of an organizer for the needs of proficiency testing, which means relevant requirements of the ISO/IEC 17043 Standard which are related to laboratory activities.
- 1.7 SNAS grants accreditation for proficiency testing organizations only to CAB which already organize or have organized specific comparisons of that type and can prove this through submitting documented procedures about how the testing was organized and in the form of records and reports on a minimum of one activity conducted in the sphere. Accreditation is granted only for spheres in which those programs were already conducted.

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- 1.8 CABs/PT organizers applying for accreditation in the field of PT organizer are assessed in the scope which is according to their specification (MSA-L/01).
- 1.9 For organizers who already have accreditation in another accreditation scope, the competence is assessed in accordance with the requirements of the ISO/IEC 17043 Standard while the results of assessment of system elements from other accreditation scopes are also taken into account.
- 1.10 After accreditation granting SNAS performs regular planned surveillances; during accreditation certificate validity, verifies whether the laboratory permanently meets all accreditation requirements related to its accredited activities. At each surveillance internal audits, management reviews, realized PT programs are assessed, preferably for the period since the last performed assessment at the organizer.
- 1.11 During the accreditation validity period the organizers shall carry out a minimum of two PTs, and in the event of several items of the accreditation scope a minimum of one PT in the respective object of proficiency testing organization, during the time of the accreditation validity.
- 1.12 The extension of scope of an accreditation is principally similar to accreditation. Extension can be related to new object of PT organization within already accredited scope of accreditation or to new sphere of activities within already accredited scope of accreditation.

2 RELATED DOCUMENTATION

ISO/IEC 17011	Conformity assessment. Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies.
ISO/IEC 17043	Conformity assessment. General requirements for proficiency testing.
MSA-04	Procedure for the Accreditation.

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