

Policy

PL - 09

SNAS POLICY ON ACCREDITATION OF INSPECTION BODIES

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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 CAB seeking accreditation for performance of inspection activities, SNAS is governed by provisions of actual version of ISO/IEC 17020. Requirements of the Standard ISO/IEC 17020 inspection bodies seeking accreditation should meet in compliance with relevant mandatory EA and ILAC documents, mandatory application documents for ISO / IEC 17020 issued as international standards or generally valid documents of recognized international organizations as well as in politics and methodical guidelines for accreditation issued by SNAS.

1.2 Applicants for accreditation in the fields of inspection may be:

- a) Legal persons involved in performance of inspection activities,
- b) Legal persons who, among other activities (e.g. certification, testing, etc.), dealing with the inspection.

1.3 Persons applying for accreditation in the field of inspection and also seeks to notification, respectively authorization, conditioned be obtaining of accreditation, they must meet the requirements for notified, respectively authorized persons.

1.4 Persons seeking authorization or notification may where it is with appropriate authorization/notification authority agreed or it is given by legislative, be assessed of the fulfilment of authorization and notification requirements in single assessment process together with accreditation assessment.

1.5 CAB entities that apply for the so-called multi-disciplinary accreditation, which includes inspection, must meet all the requirements of ISO / IEC 17020.

1.6 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 ISO/IEC 17020, in order to be clear that these other activities do not compromise the independence and inspection results. The applicant's policies and procedures must include all factors that can affect its character, impartiality and integrity (ownership relationships and interests, organizational aspects, decision-making procedures, financial affairs, personnel, etc.).

1.7 The inspection body must be independent in the range that is required with regard to the conditions under which its services in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17020.

1.8 A part of the assessment of the applicant for accreditation is the witness assessment of inspection to be carried out by observation of inspectors during inspection.

1.9 During the first assessment, all inspection body's sites are assessed where one or more inspection activity are performed and all sub-fields of inspection with regard to the type of inspection and range of requirements are assessed. In the case of a large number of inspection body sites and a large number of sub-fields, sampling procedures may be used based on the risk associated with the activities or sites.

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1.10 After granting accreditation SNAS performs regularly planned surveillances over accredited inspection bodies; during accreditation certificate validity (surveillance visits and reassessment) verifies whether the inspection body permanently meets all accreditation requirements. During each surveillance is assessed compliance with the requirements relating to impartiality and independence, personnel competence, processes, procedures and documentation of inspections, internal audits, management reviews and complaints and appeals, as well as the effectiveness of eliminating non-conformities and risks from the last assessments are assessed.

1.11 During surveillance, the inspection body is assessed in such a way that, using sampling procedures and risks associated with activities or sites, all sites and all inspection fields/ sub-fields were assessed within one accreditation cycles (surveillance visits and reassessment) with regard to the type and range of inspection requirements.

1.12 All mentioned principles related to accreditation are applied for reassessment of inspection bodies, what means that all sites and fields/subfields of inspection are assessed using sampling procedures and the risk associated with the activities or sites, except those that have been assessed during the surveillance and extensions of the accreditation during accreditation cycle and where no deficiencies have been identified. All requirements of ISO / IEC 17020 are assessed during re-accreditation.

1.13 SNAS performs accreditation extension of inspection bodies analogously to accreditation principles. Accreditation extension can concern new fields/subfields of inspection, scope of requirements, range of inspection, methods and procedures of inspection within already accreditation scope or new sites. Extension of accreditation if the accredited person asks for it, as separate service can be performing together with the planned surveillance or re-accreditation. Extension activities of the new "Scope of accreditation" (e.g. certification or testing) is not an extension of accreditation of inspection body, but it is a new accreditation and it is managed by the principles required for accreditation.

1.14 Where it is relevant, SNAS requires the participation of inspection bodies in appropriate proficiency testing, if it is available and justified by the inclusion of testing activities that directly affect and determine the inspection result or when required by law or by regulators. Within one accreditation cycle inspection body must participate in at least one proficiency testing with acceptable results for each relevant item of inspection.

Proficiency testing is not a usual and expected element in the accreditation of most types of inspections.

1.15 In case that the inspection body select option B in the chapter 8.1 for the requirements for the management system in chapter 8.1 select option B, SNAS also assesses compliance with all requirements of ISO / IEC 17020 chapter 8.2 to 8.9, taking into account that the organization of which the inspection body is a part is certified according to ISO 9001.

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1.16 Where justified, an inspection body may have sampling accredited to ISO/IEC 17020:2012 as a separate activity. Resolution EA 2022 (52) 11 states that the preferred standard for sampling is ISO/IEC 17025, but where appropriate, ISO/IEC 17020 – Conformity assessment – Requirements for the operation of various types of inspection bodies may also be used for the accreditation of bodies carrying out sampling as a separate activity, provided that all the relevant requirements of the preferred standard are applied as additional requirements within the accreditation process.

1.17 If the inspection body wants to carry out a measurement on another occasion than as part of an inspection specified in the accreditation certificate, it cannot declare such measurement itself to be accredited according to ISO/IEC 17020 in accordance with MSA I/02 ((ILAC-G27: 07/2019) Appendix 1 Chapter 2.1.

1.18 The inspection report or inspection certificate must not contain the date of validity of the inspection.

1.19 If there is a legal requirement that a subsequent inspection should be carried out within a legally defined period, the inspection certificate/inspection report may contain a sentence such as: "according to regulation/law/decreed xxx, the following inspection should be carried out on +++ date". However, there must be an external requirement of the regulator (regulation/law/decreed/regulation), which must not be defined by the inspection body itself.

1.20 The output of each inspection must be an inspection report or inspection certificate containing the accreditation mark. This obligation also applies to inspections with identified non-conformities.

1.21 SNAS provides accreditation of inspection bodies only for a fixed scope of accreditation, and does not provide accreditation of inspection bodies for a flexible scope of accreditation according to EA-2/15 M:2023 (EA Requirements for the Accreditation of Flexible Scopes).

2 RELATED DOCUMENTS

ISO/IEC 17011	Conformity assessment. General requirement for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies
ISO/IEC 17020	Conformity assessment. Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection
ILAC-P15	Guidance on the application of ISO/IEC 17020:2012
PL-10	SNAS Policy on Accreditation for Notification or Authorization Purposes
MSA-04	Procedure for the accreditation
MSA-I/01	Accreditation scope and scope specification of accreditation of Inspection Bodies

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MSA-I/02	Guidance on the application of ISO/IEC 17020 (Translation of the ILAC-P15)
MSA-I/03	Witness assessment of Inspection Bodies

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