SADCA COMMUNIQUE NUMBER 2 ON NON-ACCREDITED CERTIFICATIONS

The SADC Cooperation in Accreditation’s Mutual Recognition Arrangement (SADCA MRA Committee) at its 6th meeting held on 13 March 2018 in Johannesburg, South Africa having reviewed the IAF Resolutions 2017-19 and also taking into account IAF Resolution 2015–14 both of which are regarding non-accredited certifications agreed to issue a Communiqué for information and implementation by all accreditation bodies operating in the Southern African development Community (SADC) in this regard.

IAF Resolution 2015–14 — (Agenda item 10) Non-Accredited Certification Where the MS CB is accredited for the Same Scope

The General Assembly, acting on the recommendation of the Technical Committee, resolved that IAF Accreditation Body members shall have legally enforceable arrangements with their accredited CABs that prevents the CAB from issuing non-accredited management systems certificates in scopes for which they are accredited.
The General Assembly further agreed that the transition period will be one year from the date of endorsement.

IAF Resolution 2017–19 — (Agenda item 9) Non-Accredited Personnel Certification where the CAB is accredited for the same scope and Transitional Arrangement

The General Assembly acting on the recommendation of the Technical Committee resolved that IAF Accreditation Body members shall have legally enforceable arrangements with their accredited CABs for personnel certification that prevents the CAB from issuing non-accredited persons certificates in scopes for which they are accredited.
The enforceable arrangements shall require full implementation within three years from 30 October 2017.

Additionally, CABs for personnel certification shall transition certification documentation to include the accreditation symbol and/or shall make reference to the accreditation status of the CAB including the identification of the AB, at the time of recertification decision; no later than 30 October 2020.

When granted initial accreditation (for ISO/IEC 17024), after 30 October 2017, a CAB shall transition (re-issue) previous unaccredited certification documents and/or make reference to the accreditation status including identification of the AB, within one year of the accreditation decision.

Note: if there is an exception to the above, the CAB must justify the exception to the AB, and if accepted by the AB, the certification is still considered accredited.

All accreditation bodies that are members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and are therefore required to abide with this resolution.

The Southern African Development Community Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA) is a Cooperation of accreditation bodies in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. SADCA is a Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Cooperation Structure established under the TBT Annex to the SADC Protocol on Trade whose objectives are to:
- Coordinate accreditation activities in the region;
- Facilitate the national, regional and international recognition and acceptance of SADC accreditation infrastructure; and
- Provide SADC Member States with accreditation as a tool for facilitating trade and the protection of health and safety of the public and the environment in both the voluntary and regulatory areas.

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