

Joint Communiqué on SADCAS Readiness to Offer Accreditation Services

The Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) is a multi-economy accreditation body incorporated in Botswana under the Botswana Companies Act Chapter 42:01. SADCAS was established by the SADC Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA) in terms of Articles 10(1) and 10(2) of the SADC Memorandum of Understanding on standardization, quality assurance, accreditation and metrology (SQAM MOU). The SADC SQAM MOU has since been superseded by the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Annex to the SADC Protocol on Trade. SADCAS is recognized by the SADC Council of Ministers as a subsidiarity organization of SADC. The relationship between SADCAS and SADC is formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on general cooperation which also serves as the basis for the recognition of SADCAS, by SADC member states as a multi economy accreditation body.

We are pleased to inform you that the Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) is now ready to process accreditation applications.

Accreditation services are being provided in partnership with the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS). SANAS has been involved in the establishment of SADCAS. The SADCAS/SANAS Twinning Partnership Arrangement was signed on 3 December 2009. Through this Twinning Partnership Arrangement, accreditation services provided will be internationally recognized since SANAS is signatory to the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) Multilateral Arrangement (MLA).

We note that your organization is accredited by the Southern African National Accreditation System (SANAS). Now that SADCAS has been set up and is operational, we encourage your organization to consider changing over, at the appropriate time, your accreditation to SADCAS. The process will involve a joint assessment of your system by SADCAS and SANAS and if fully compliant you will be issued with an accreditation certificate that bears joint SADCAS and SANAS accreditation marks.

The reasons for you to consider changing over are summarized as follows:

1. SADCAS has been set up to meet accreditation needs of SADC member states particularly those that do not have own accreditation body. SADCAS your Accreditation Body is now ready to process accreditation applications.
2. SADCAS is recognized as a multi-economy accreditation body throughout the SADC region. SADCAS is a member of SADCA, an affiliate member of ILAC and an observer member of IAF.
3. Through the SADCAS/SANAS Twinning Partnership Arrangement your accredited facility will be able to maintain international recognition.
4. SANAS encourage all SANAS accredited organizations in SADC member states excluding South Africa to now utilize SADCAS accreditation services.

SADCAS is your Accreditation Body therefore we encourage you to utilize its services.



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