

## **The SANAS ISO/IEC 17020: 2012 Transition Policy Rev. No: 01**

### **Attention all Accredited Inspection Bodies and Applicants in Process of Application**

The ISO/IEC 17020: 2012 Conformity assessment - General criteria for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection was published by the ISO ([www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)) on 27 February 2012 and will supersede the ISO/IEC 17020: 1998 policy.

It is envisaged that ILAC ([www.ilac.org](http://www.ilac.org)) will set a two-year transition period from the date of publication, which means that the transition must be completed by 27 February 2014\*.

The SANAS Transition Policy (Rev 01) has been published on the SANAS website ([www.sanas.co.za](http://www.sanas.co.za)) under "Announcements", and is applicable to all accredited inspection bodies and facilities in progress of application. These bodies and facilities are urged to read the Transition Policy and take timeous action to ensure a smooth transition to the ISO/IEC 17020: 2012 policy by the target date.

SANAS is planning a generic training session for accredited inspection bodies and facilities in progress of application

from 28 May to 1 June 2012. Please contact Bambi Horak ([bambih@sanas.co.za](mailto:bambih@sanas.co.za)) in the Training Division if you are interested in attending.

In an effort to assist accredited inspection bodies, SANAS plans to start with a gap analysis by July 2012. Facilities currently in the progress of application will have the option to continue with ISO/IEC 17020: 1998, but will need to be in full compliance with ISO/IEC 17020: 2012 by 27 February 2014.

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\* Please note that the transition start date is based on previous experience; definite dates will be communicated once ILAC has issued a directive in this regard which may/may not influence this plan.

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## **VOs Wrongfully Authorised to Verify Independently for Own Income**

SANAS has learnt that some accredited verification laboratories are permitting verification officers (VOs), who are either past employees or affiliates, to independently verify instruments with the sole purpose of generating their own income.

The National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS) has identified this irregularity a while ago and has since brought it to the attention of SANAS. The two bodies are currently in discussion as to how best they can deal with the challenge within their respective frameworks and available resources.

This practice is viewed as franchising, as described by the SANAS R01 document on Transfer of Accreditation/GLP Compliance and Franchising, of which Clause 4.1 states:

Franchising is the business practice whereby a franchisor allows a franchisee to use a certain trademark or trading

name, and typically supplies support and training in exchange for a recurring royalty fee. The trademark is typically the name under which the business operates. The franchisee is a separate legal entity to that of the franchisor, although this is not necessarily apparent to the customer who assumes that the legal entity is the holder of the trademark or name under which the organisation operates.

As the franchisee does not own the trademark or name under which they operate, the franchisee is not explicitly identified as the entity that is legally responsible.

Accreditation shall not be transferrable from one entity (person) to another. SANAS therefore urges anyone who might be involved in such activities to refrain from doing so, as it will be taking the necessary action against those who are found to be involved.

