



European Union



## FACILITATING TRADE AND ENSURING THE QUALITY OF SERVICES AND PRODUCTS

Directory of Accredited Conformity  
Assessment Bodies in West Africa

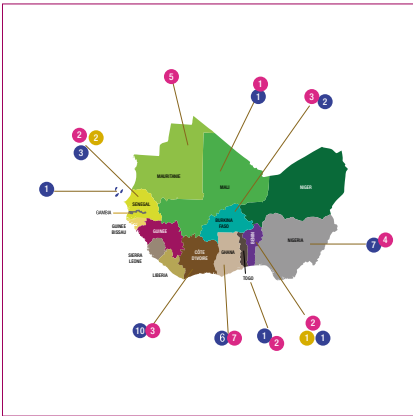
Edition August 2017

# Quality

# Safety

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NOTE The accreditation bodies listed in this document are signatories to the ILAC (INTERNATIONAL LABORATORY ACCREDITATION COOPERATION) and / or IAF (INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION FORUM) Multilateral Recognition Arrangements.

# FOREWORD



## KALILOU TRAORE

ECOWAS Commissioner for Industry and Private  
Sector Promotion

Dear reader,

This valuable directory has been published at a timely moment. It is aligned with the strategic direction of the Common Industrial Policy and Quality Policy (ECOQUAL) and other important priorities. The ECOWAS Commission aims **to ensure that both public and private sector actors have access to a network of accredited providers and suppliers of competitive conformity assessment services in the region.**

The directory lists accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) including Certification and inspection bodies, testing laboratories and metrology laboratories. The aim of the directory is to enable appropriate access to information on accreditation as well as encourage other CABs to be part of this dynamic exercise.

Through the West Africa Quality System Programme (WAQSP), implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and financed by the European Union (EU), the ECOWAS Commission has supported around 40 CABs to become accredited in their own right (out of the 50 accredited in the region). Simultaneously, the WAQSP has encouraged the establishment of an ECOWAS Regional Accreditation System (RAS). The ultimate goal of these actions is to make accreditation more accessible by developing competent accreditation bodies that are internationally recognized by their peers. Unfortunately, this is not yet the case, since all ECOWAS CABs have been accredited by external accreditation bodies outside the region.

Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to launch an appeal:

- Firstly, to CABs themselves, to make accreditation their personal goal in order to guarantee the quality of services offered;
- Secondly, to accreditation bodies created within the region or those that are in the process of being established, to quickly reach a sufficient operational capability level, in order to deliver the first accreditation services in the sub-region.

With the publication of this directory, which will be updated regularly, users and beneficiaries will now be aware of the most suitable CAB to match their needs. This is an opportunity for me, with the remarkable milestone that 50 CABs have now been accredited in the region, to express my deep gratitude to the European Union and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) for their relevant contributions to these results, particularly the financing, and implementing of, various quality programmes since 2000.

I hope you enjoy making use of the first directory of accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) in West Africa!

# FOREWORD



## BERNARDO CALZADILLA-SARMIENTO

Director of Trade,  
Investment and Innovation, UNIDO

The development of trade is closely linked to industrial development itself. This is notably true for countries in West Africa. Industrial development must also now be seen in the spirit of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2030, particularly *Sustainable Development Goal 9 on building resilient infrastructure, promoting sustainable industrialization that benefits all and encouraging innovation*.

Estimated at 135 billion USD in 2014, West Africa's annual export volume has remained above the threshold of 100 billion USD during 2010-2014. Despite this relative stability, these results are still considered low compared to the commercial performances of other regions. To boost West Africa's industrial development, UNIDO focuses on supporting its trading platform. Development of trade cannot be considered without certain prerequisites, such as the existence of a Quality Infrastructure.

Conformity certificates, for example, can only be issued after the product has been through a recognized Quality Infrastructure process. The bodies responsible for issuing these precious certificates are among the pillars that make up a Quality Infrastructure and include laboratories, inspection and certification bodies. They are thus commonly referred to as Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs). There is currently a double challenge for the region: on the one hand, there must be sufficient operational CABs capable to assess the conformity of the numerous and various traded products, and on the other hand, they should guarantee international recognition of the technical competence of these CABs via the accreditation. These are the challenges that the region has been resolutely addressing over the last 15 years, backstopped by its partners, like UNIDO, particularly through projects financed by the European Union and known as quality programmes.

This is why it is with delight that I endorse the first directory on accredited CABs in West Africa: the tool will henceforth enable the identification of the expertise sought throughout

the region, from the North (Nouakchott) to the South (Abidjan) and from East (Niamey) to West (Dakar).

In the early 2000s, speaking of accreditation was odd, or even a taboo, because it was deemed inaccessible by the region. By the end of 2012, about 20 laboratories were counted among the first accredited CABs under the impetus of quality programmes. In 2016, thanks to impact of trainings and the synergy of the efforts of several public and private actors, the threshold of 50 accredited CABs has now been reached.

Congratulations to all!

This tangible result, although it is welcomed, remains very fragile and still insufficient to meet the needs and expectations of no less than 300 million people in the region. Therefore, as part of the Quality Programme Phase 3, UNIDO intends to continue to play its part, in line with the mission entrusted by its member states in 2013: *«Implement inclusive and sustainable industrial development, not only to improve economic competitiveness, but also to create and share prosperity and, lastly, to protect the environment»*.

As a result, about 20 additional CABs are sought to be accredited by 2018. They will complement the region's conformity assessment mechanism, with, as the ultimate objective, **healthy and safe products that benefit the West African consumer**.

Finally, this forum is an opportunity for me to encourage the WAEMU Commission, the ECOWAS Commission, the 16 states of the region and all of their technical and financial partners, to continue to participate fully in the development of accreditation process, the only guarantee of an efficient, sustainable and wealth-creating conformity assessment system. Once again, congratulations for this valuable reference document, which we hope will be enriched in the coming years, through the increasing proliferation of accredited CABs.



# ACCREDITATION

## ROLE AND CHALLENGES OF THE ECOWAS REGIONAL ACCREDITATION SYSTEM

In West Africa, technical barriers to trade are a major constraint to regional and international trade access for countries in the region. In this context, it is imperative for national conformity assessment bodies (CABs) to be able to produce recognized analysis reports or certificates of conformity that are recognized on a regional and international level.

CABs are mainly composed of laboratories (tests and calibrations), certification bodies (certification of individuals, products & services or systems) and inspection structures. The accreditation of these CABs guarantees the quality and international acceptance of the analysis results and the certificates of conformity issued by the latter.

However, accreditation activities are not well developed in the region:

- At the level of the member states of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), the West African Accreditation System (SOAC), which brings together eight economies, organized its constituent general assembly in 2015.
- Two Anglophone countries, Ghana and Nigeria, have started the setting up of their national accreditation body. Regarding Nigeria, the Nigerian National Accreditation Service (NINAS) was established in 2015.

However, SOAC, NINAS and the Ghana project are in their early stages. As a result, the region does not yet have a valuable experience in accreditation. Hence, the conformity assessment bodies of the region use foreign structures for their accreditation needs. In this context, the Council of Ministers set out the provisions for the establishment and implementation of the ECOWAS Regional Accreditation System (RAS) through two community regulations adopted in 2013 and 2017. The objective of the RAS is to coordinate accreditation activities in the community, specifically:

- Support rapid operation of existing or future accreditation bodies, which should operate in accordance with international rules applicable in the field;
- Propose mechanisms for the recognition of the various conformity assessment certificates issued by the ECOWAS member states at the national level pending receipt of international clearance confirming the competence of these accreditation bodies ;
- Establish cooperation arrangements between accreditation bodies established in the region to cover all the needs in this field.



# CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

## ISSUES OF ACCREDITATION AND CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

Products and services are like promises. Business customers, consumers, users and public officials have expectations about products and services relating to features like quality, ecology, safety, economy, reliability, compatibility, interoperability, effectiveness and efficiency. The process for demonstrating that these features meet the requirements of standards, regulations and other specifications is called conformity assessment. In brief, conformity assessment helps to ensure that products and services deliver on their promises.

The increase in trade over the past few decades demands more certainty across borders about the integrity of conformity assessment results. Accreditation is one means of providing this assurance. It is an independent attestation that a conformity assessment body is operating in an impartial and technically competent way. This can greatly enhance the value of the conformity assessment body's outputs, its test or inspection reports, calibration certificates, and system or product certificates.

Building Trust, The conformity assessment tool box, ISO & UNIDO, English Edition (189 pages, ISBN 978-92-67-10511-6)





# FIELDS OF ACCREDITATION OF CABS

- ISO/IEC 17025 :2005 General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories

Exigences générales concernant la compétence des laboratoires d'étalonnages et d'essais

- ISO/IEC 17020:2012 Conformity assessment-requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection

Evaluation de la conformité-Exigences pour le fonctionnement des différents types d'organismes procédant à l'inspection.

- ISO 15189:2012 Medical laboratories-requirements for quality and competence

Laboratoire de biologie médicale- Exigences concernant la qualité et la compétence

- ISO/IEC 17065:2012 Conformity assessment-requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services

Evaluation de conformité-Exigences pour les organismes certifiant les produits, les procédés et les services.

- ISO 15190:2003 Medical laboratories- requirements for safety

Laboratoires de médecine-Exigences pour la sécurité



*Note : The list of accredited CABS in this directory is non-exhaustive.  
The details of accreditation scopes can be found on related accreditation bodies websites.*

## TABLES

## BENIN



Organismes d'évaluation de la conformité / Conformity Assessment Bodies	Organismes d'accréditation / Accreditation Bodies	Domaine d'accréditation / Field of Accreditation
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## Laboratoires accrédités ISO CEI 17025 / ISO IEC 17025 accredited laboratories

Agence Nationale de Métrologie et de contrôle qualité (ANM), Laboratoire de Métrologie	Comité français d'accréditation / French Accreditation Body (Cofrac)	Métrologie des masses / Mass metrology
Laboratoire Aiwa Technical Services (ATS)	Cofrac	Essais sur matériaux de construction / Testing building material
Laboratoire Central de contrôle de la sécurité sanitaire des aliments (LCSSA)	BELAC (Organisme belge d'Accréditation, Belgian Accreditation Body)	Chimie et microbiologie des Aliments / Food Chemistry & Microbiology
Laboratoire d'Essais et de Recherches en Génie Civil (LERGC)	Cofrac	Essais sur matériaux de construction / Testing building material

- Organisme privé / Private body
- Organisme public / Public body
- Partenariat public & privé / Private public partnership



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[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_23183](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_23183)

