



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



A GUIDE TO OPENING THE DOOR FOR GLOBAL TRADE

Setting up **Accreditation Bodies** in Developing Countries

Setting up Accreditation Bodies in Developing Economies

A GUIDE TO OPENING THE DOOR FOR GLOBAL TRADE

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- Bangladesh: Bangladesh Accreditation Board (BAB)
- Arab Accreditation Cooperation (ARAC)
- South African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS)
- Colombia: ONAC – The National Accreditation Body of Colombia
- Mauritius: Mauritius Accreditation Service (MAURITAS)
- Nigeria: Nigeria National Accreditation Service (NiNAS)
- Peru: Accreditation Division of the National Institute of Quality (INACAL-DA)
- Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka Accreditation Board for Conformity assessment (SLAB)

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Foreword



Trade is broadly recognized as a potential engine of growth. The contribution it can make to poverty alleviation in developing economies figures prominently on the international development agenda. However, developing country exports and imports face an increasing number of requirements in the form of standards or technical regulations that must be met for products to be accepted when crossing borders.

The international recognition of work conducted by laboratories, certification bodies, inspection bodies and other types of conformity assessment bodies is key to whether goods produced by an exporter are acceptable to other countries. Work carried out by internationally recognized conformity assessment bodies can provide the needed proof that exports meet an importer's requirements.

The international recognition comes through the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) that oversees the accreditation of various types of certification bodies, and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) that oversees the accreditation of laboratories and inspection bodies. IAF and ILAC work together closely; their member bodies accredit conformity assessment bodies (CABs) to international standards. Accreditation bodies are admitted into mutual recognition arrangements, which among other things, help to facilitate international trade. IAF, ILAC and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), have joined together to assist developing countries to establish and strengthen accreditation and conformity assessment bodies so that those economies may also derive benefits from trade facilitation.

Not only does an accreditation system have benefits for improving trade flows, it also delivers many benefits internal to an economy. A robust system of accreditation and conformity assessment will support the improvement of the quality of products sold domestically to consumers, and can help regulators achieve their objectives. Increasingly, accredited conformity assessment can provide confidence in other non-trade arenas, such as the monitoring and measurement of progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals and their associated targets.

This publication seeks to provide a clear and comprehensive description of considerations for and the steps leading to the establishment of accreditation bodies in developing countries. It is an update of the 2003 UNIDO Publication, "Laboratory Accreditation in Developing Economies". The content has been re-focused on the establishment of accreditation bodies and reorganized into a Part 1 for policy decision-makers, and a Part 2 for those working to establish accreditation bodies. Two new sections have been added: one which describes how the implementation of accreditation systems may contribute to good governance and can help to achieve economic goals in developing countries; and, another which provides practical insight through case studies about actual accreditation body establishment.

This publication and the combined efforts that led to its development clearly indicate the increasing collaboration among international agencies to help developing countries overcome barriers to trade.

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Contents

Acknowledgements	4
Foreword	5
Glossary of Abbreviations	8
Executive Summary	9
Introduction	10
PART 1: Developing an Accreditation System - Policy Considerations	13
1. Role of Accreditation	14
1.1. What can accreditation do for an economy?	15
1.2. What is accreditation?	15
1.3. Accreditation: A closer look	16
1.3.1. Accreditation of Conformity Assessment Bodies	18
1.3.2 Accreditation, Certification, Inspection and Testing: What sets them apart?	18
2. Considerations for Establishing an Accreditation Body	20
2.1. The need	21
2.2. Factors for success	21
2.3. Suitable conditions not present? What then?	23
3. Good Governance, Trade Facilitation and Economic Impact through Accreditation	24
3.1 Objective and impartial mechanism	25
3.2 Achieving regulatory objectives through accreditation	25
3.3 Trade facilitation	26
4. The International Dimension	28
4.1. Regional and international links	29
4.2. ILAC and IAF	29
4.3. Regional accreditation organizations	29
4.4. Multilateral Recognition Arrangements	30
4.5. Developing economies and regional approaches to accreditation	31
PART 2: Developing an Accreditation System – Considerations for Implementation	33
5. How to Do It	34
5.1. Establishing an accreditation body	35
5.2. The groundwork	35
5.3. Structural characteristics	35
5.3.1. Organization	36
5.3.2. Impartiality	36
5.3.3. Confidentiality	36
5.4. Human resources	37
5.4.1. Accreditation body staff	37
5.4.2. Assessors	37
5.4.3. Assessment team	38
5.4.4 Human resource monitoring	39

5.5. Management procedures	39
5.6. Assessment of a Conformity Assessment Body	40
5.6.1. Purpose	40
5.6.2. Preparation and application	41
5.6.3. The assessment	43
5.6.4. Approaches to assessment	43
5.6.5. Interviews	44
5.6.6. Closing and reporting	45
5.7. Accreditation decisions	45
5.8. Reassessment and surveillance	45
5.9. Proficiency testing and traceability	46
5.10. Accreditation records	46
5.11. Complaints and appeals	46
5.12. Reference to accreditation and use of symbols	46
6. Maintenance and Development	48
6.1. Maintenance of the system	49
6.2. Development and evolving demands	49
7. Technical Assistance to Developing Countries through UNIDO	50
7.1. UNIDO trade capacity building programmes and partnerships	51
7.2. Accreditation activities	52
7.3. Challenges in developing economies	53
7.3.1. Knowledge, skills and abilities	53
7.3.2. Financing	54
7.3.3. Proficiency testing	54
7.3.4. Metrology and standards	54
7.3.5. Policy and regulation	55
7.3.6. Change	55
7.4. LABNETWORK	55
Case Studies: Accreditation Body Establishment in Developing Countries	56
Country 1: Mauritius Accreditation Service (MAURITAS)	59
Country 2: Bangladesh Accreditation Board (BAB)	63
Country 3: The National Accreditation Body of Colombia (ONAC)	67
Country 4: Nigeria National Accreditation Service (NiNAS)	71
Country 5: Arab Accreditation Cooperation (ARAC)	77
Country 6: Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS)	83
Country 7: Sri Lanka Accreditation Board for Conformity Assessment (SLAB)	89
Country 8: National Institute of Quality – Directorate of Accreditation (INACAL-DA)	95
Annexes	101
Annex 1 - Building Blocks for Accreditation Body Establishment	102
Annex 2 - Useful Sources of Information	105
Annex 3 - Key Websites	106
Annex 4 - References list of ISO/CASCO Guides and Standards by Field of Application	107

Glossary of Abbreviations



AFRAC	African Accreditation Cooperation
APEC	Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation
APLAC	Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation
APMP	Asia Pacific Metrology Programme
ARAC	Arab Accreditation Cooperation
BIPM	International Bureau of Weights and Measures
EA	European co-operation for Accreditation
EAAB	East African Accreditation Board
EACAS	East African Community Accreditation System
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
IAAC	Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation
IAF	International Accreditation Forum
IEC	International Electro-technical Commission
IEC CB	International Electro-technical Commission Certification Body
ILAC	International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ISO/CASCO	ISO Conformity Assessment Committee
ITC	International Trade Centre
MLA	Multilateral Recognition Arrangement
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRA	Mutual Recognition Arrangemen

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