



CRITERIA FOR ACCREDITATION

INSPECTION BODIES (CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT BODIES FOR INSPECTION) – APR 2021



1. Objective

The objective of this document is to describe the criteria for accreditation of Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) for Inspection in accordance with the international standards as applicable.

2. Responsibility

Director of GAB shall be responsible to ensure that the criteria is maintained updated and appropriately communicated to the CABs in particular and to public in general.

3. Criteria for Accreditation of CABs for Inspection

The accreditation criteria are based on the international standards applicable for the CABs for inspection (Inspection Bodies). Following are the standards that will be used as criteria for accreditation:

- a) ISO/IEC 17020:2012 Conformity assessment — Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection.

This document is issued by International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and can be purchased from ISO online from its website www.iso.org

As part of the membership with APAC/ILAC, GAB has adopted the documents issued by APAC/ILAC in addition to the above. The policy document as listed below, issued by ILAC and applicable for the CABs carrying out inspection as part of the criteria for accreditation;

- a) ILAC P15: Application of ISO/IEC 17020:2012 for the Accreditation of Inspection Bodies

The above document provides information for the application of ISO/IEC 17020:2012 Conformity assessment – Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection for the accreditation of inspection bodies. This document will be used by GAB for assessing inspection bodies for accreditation. Inspection bodies seeking accreditation from GAB shall manage their operations in a manner fulfilling the requirements for accreditation including the additional information given in this document. This document can be downloaded from ILAC website <http://ilac.org/publications-and-resources/ilac-policy-series/>

4. Policy on calibration and traceability of measurements and test results

(reference clause 6.2.6 & 6.2.7 of ISO 17020:2012)

Traceability is the property of a measurement or test result whereby the result can be related to stated references, usually national or international standards, through a documented unbroken chain of comparisons (i.e. calibrations), each having stated measurement uncertainties. The purpose of requiring



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traceability is to ensure that measurements and test results are accurate representations of the specific quantity subject to measurement/testing, where measurement/test results form the basis of inspection results. ILAC Document - ILAC P10 "ILAC Policy on Traceability of Measurement Results" available on ILAC website 'www.ilac.org' forms the basis of GAB Policy on Measurement Traceability. Traceability of measurement results is a fundamental topic for equivalence as well as harmonization of measurement results provided by conformity assessment bodies including inspection bodies and to ensure confidence amongst accreditation bodies to maintain international Mutual Recognition Arrangements.

GAB Policy on Measurement Traceability applicable to all applicant/accredited Inspection Bodies and on the tests conducted by Inspection body at its own laboratories or contracted laboratories is as follows:

- i) Inspection Bodies shall be able to demonstrate that calibration of critical equipment/instruments, whether owned by itself or others, used in inspection/testing and hence the measurement/test results generated by that equipment/instrument, relevant to the applied / accredited scope of accreditation, are traceable to the International System of Units (SI units) in accordance with the requirements specified in ISO 17025. When using external calibration services, traceability of measurement shall be assured by the use of calibration services from laboratories that can demonstrate competence, measurement capability and traceability.
- ii) Evidence of traceability to national and international standards of measurements can be demonstrated by calibrations performed by:
 - a) National Metrology Institute or other CIPM (International Committee for Weights and Measures) MRA signatories;
 - b) Calibration laboratories that are accredited by Accreditation Bodies that are ILAC or APAC MRA Signatory, or
 - c) Laboratories demonstrating compliance to ISO/IEC 17025, as assessed by the inspection body.
- iii) Where in-house calibration of equipment is accepted, the inspection body shall ensure that the calibration has been performed in accordance with the relevant criteria for metrological traceability in ISO/IEC 17025, which states that traceability of measurement shall be assured by the use of calibration services from laboratories that can demonstrate competence, measurement capability and traceability. In such cases the inspection body has the responsibility for ensuring and demonstrating that calibrations are performed by using a valid calibration method, by competent person(s), maintaining all conditions for performing calibration such as traceability of master equipment as per (ii) above, environmental conditions etc. and that calibration records are adequately maintained.
- iv) Where traceability as stated above is not technically possible or reasonable or available, the inspection body and the client and other interested parties may agree to using certified reference materials provided by a competent supplier or using specified methods and/or consensus standards that are clearly described and agreed by all parties.

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- v) Where inspection body opts to verify compliance of an external/in-house calibration laboratory to ISO/IEC 17025 instead of using a calibration laboratory accredited as per ISO/IEC 17025, then it shall have a documented procedure to assess an external/in-house calibration laboratory to the applicable requirements of ISO/IEC 17025 (as described in iii above) and shall demonstrate to have assessed the external/in-house calibration laboratory by an assessor trained in ISO/IEC 17025 and relevant calibrations and the IB's procedures, and shall maintain detailed records of assessing compliance of the external calibration laboratory to ISO/IEC 17025.

5. Amendment of Criteria for accreditation

GAB reserves the right to amend the criteria of accreditation. The amendments in the criteria of accreditation will be communicated to applicant/accredited CABs for implementation as per accreditation procedure.