



Ethiopian Accreditation Service /EAS/

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## Ethiopian Accreditation Service

### About EAS

The government of Ethiopia has authorized EAS as the sole National Accreditation Body to offer accreditation services. It operates as an autonomous body under **Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration**, government of Ethiopia.

The mandate of **EAS** is to accredit, by formal third party recognition, the competence of conformity assessment bodies (CABs) to perform specific activities.

### Policy Statement

**EAS** Top Management and all staff are committed to the highest level of services and full and continuous implementation of ISO/IEC 17011: ILAC, IAF, AFRAC and national mandatory requirements. The implementation these requirement are the basis for attaining the objectives set by top management.

**EAS** continually improves both the quality and scope of its service to satisfy the needs of its stakeholders and customers. **EAS** is also committed to provide equal opportunity to all applicants for accreditation with highest level of competence, transparency, integrity, confidentiality, accountability and with due regard to liability. Documents supporting the implementation of goals are continuously improved and trained.

## **Mission**

**To provide credible accreditation service for conformity assessment bodies**

## **Vision**

**To become an internationally recognized accreditation body by 2022 on all available scope of AFRAC.**

## **ENAO's core values are:-**

- ❖ Competence
- ❖ Impartiality
- ❖ Transparency
- ❖ Non discrimination
- ❖ Accountability
- ❖ Responsiveness
- ❖ Confidentiality

## **Objectives**

### **EAS shall have the objectives to:-**

- ❖ Enhance export and inland trade of the country by establishing and implementing internationally recognized accreditation system and there by causing issuance of internationally acceptable accreditation certificate for the goods and services of the country:
- ❖ Play its role to ensure the public health, consumer safety, environmental safety and fair market competition by providing competent accreditation service for CABs by using national and international standards:
- ❖ Contribute its role to the efficiency and effectiveness of domestic decision to enhance acceptance and confidence in the general Public

**Power and duties to:-The Service shall have the power and duties to:-**

1. Act as sole independent body to provide accreditation service to conformity assessment bodies based on national and international standards and requirements;
2. Promote accreditation by providing training on accreditation standards, assessment techniques and related requirements in an internationally acceptable manner;
3. Issue rules on how to use National Accreditation Symbol and ensure its implementation, promote and protect other legally granted regional and international umbrella organization symbols in an internationally acceptable way;
4. Promote and encourage conformity assessment bodies to obtain accreditation service; promote the service it provide and create awareness to clients on the benefit of accreditation:
5. Keep register and publicize the list of accredited bodies and those whose accreditation have been suspended and withdrawn, and notify same to the concerned regulatory bodies:
6. Issue and implement directives governing the accreditation process, in particular, the assessment of applicants and the granting suspending and withdrawing of accreditation, and handling of grievances relating thereto:
7. Conduct planned and surprise surveillance visit to verify continuation of scope of competence of accredited conformity assessment bodies and fulfillment of mandatory requirements issued by the office:
8. Conduct supervision to protect misuse of accreditation certificate, accreditation symbol including misrepresentation of data from an accreditation: and take administrative measure to rectify problems identifies:
9. Cause conformity assessment bodies to purchase insurance policy to cover any damage that they may cause on properties of clients during their activates;
10. Charge fee for the services it renders in accordance with the rate fee approved by the government;
11. Own property, enter in to contract, sue and be sued in its own name;
12. Conduct agreements with other bodies that do not conflict with any international agreements that the country had entered in to;

13. Carry out other related activities necessary for the attainment of its objectives.

### **What is Accreditation?**

Accreditation is the third party attestation related to conformity assessment body conveying formal demonstration of its competence to carry out specific conformity assessment tasks. It is a benchmark for performance that assures high standards in organizational system by conformity assessment body.

### **Benefit of Accreditation**

Accreditation is a means of reducing technical barriers to trade hence leading to increase in trade and creation of wealth.

### **The benefit to stake holders are as follows:-**

- ❖ **To Industry and Trade:-** Accreditation facilitates trade and eliminates the need for repetitive testing, certification and inspection.
- ❖ **To Regulators:-** Accreditation provides a reliable and impartial basis for sound decision making.
- ❖ **To Conformity assessment bodies:-** Accreditation is a means for demonstrating your competency to CAB's clients and is a requirement for working with many regulators and industrial sectors.
- ❖ **To Consumers:-** Accreditation is your guarantee for reliable and comparable conformity assessment results and increase reliability of products.

Accreditation is distinct from certification as certification focuses on an organization's compliance with requirements, systems and products standards whilst accreditation focuses on technical competence. Therefore accreditation is a formal recognition to the CABs that they are competent to carry out specific conformity assessment tasks.

### **Accreditation Services**

The **Ethiopian Accreditation Service (EAS)** gives service to the following scopes of accreditation.

Scope of Accreditation	Standard
Medical Laboratories	ISO 15189 :2012
Calibration Laboratories	ISO/IEC17025:2017
Testing Laboratories	ISO/IEC:17025:2017
Inspection Bodies	ISO/IEC 17020:2012
Management system certification bodies	ISO/IEC 17021:2015
Personnel certification bodies	ISO/IEC 17024:2012
Product certification bodies	ISO/IEC 17065:2015

## Testing and Calibration Scheme

### 1. Medical Laboratory Accreditation ISO 15189



The essential aspect of accreditation is that it promotes confidence in results and services because it is a valid means of verifying claims about quality, performance and reliability. The use of internationally recognized standards as the reference criteria for laboratory accreditation is the key to building trust across borders and promoting best practices worldwide.

The outcomes of accreditation in medical laboratories are:-

Measurement of the strength and integrity of the quality system

Continual monitoring of the quality system

Recognition for your efforts

Accredited laboratories tend to perform better on proficiency testing and are more likely to have a working quality management system

Medical laboratory services are essential to patient care and therefore have to be availed in a manner that meets the needs of all patients and the clinical personnel responsible for the care of these patients. These services include:-

- ❖ Arrangement for requisition
- ❖ Patient preparation
- ❖ Patient identification
- ❖ Collection of samples
- ❖ Transportation
- ❖ Storage
- ❖ Processing and examination of clinical sample



Together with subsequent /verification/ validation interpretation, reporting and advice in addition to the consideration of safety & ethics in medical laboratory work.

**Note:-** The **Ethiopian Accreditation Service** is offering accreditation to medical laboratory based on ISO 15189 and **EAS** requirement.

## 2. Accreditation of Testing and Calibration Laboratories- ISO/IEC 17025 :

The testing and calibration scheme in **EAS** provides accreditation for the recognition of the technical competence of a testing and calibration laboratory for a specific task following ISO/IEC 17025:2017 international standards. **EAS** testing and calibration scheme has been established with the objective to provide government, industry and private laboratories in general with a scheme for the third party –assessment of the quality and technical competence of their laboratory to carry out specific testing, measurements and calibrations.



The concept of laboratory accreditation was developed to provide a means for third- party attestation of the competence of laboratory to perform specific type(s) of testing and calibration. The competence takes into account the caliber of personnel; infrastructure that include equipment; test method and procedures; the testing environment etc.

Laboratory accreditation provides formal recognition of competent laboratory, thus providing a ready means for customers to find reliable testing and calibration service in order to meet their demands and facilitate trade.

**Ethiopian Accreditation Service** provides accreditation service for calibration laboratories in the scope force, Dimension, mass, pressure, electro-technical, torque, time and frequency, humidity, light, volume, density and chemical.

### 2.1 Accreditation of Veterinary Laboratory –ISO/IEC 17025

The general criteria for accreditation of veterinary laboratories are contained within ISO/IEC17025:2017. Specifically criteria are used to augment the general criteria applicable to a certain field of testing, testing technology, or specific test.



Additional requirements supplement ISO/IEC 17025 to evaluate diagnostic and clinical veterinary laboratories that conduct commercial, governmental, academic and international veterinary testing in the following areas: infectious disease, diagnostics, disease surveillance, virology, pathology, microbiology, immunology,

Screening for growth promoters and drug/chemical residue that includes antibiotics, anthelmintic, pesticides, metals, organics, DNA/RNA, Genetically modified organisms (GMO). These specific requirements also are designed to complement any applicable regulatory requirements that affect government veterinary laboratory state, regional, national and international and pre veterinary laboratory.

## **2.2 Accreditation of Pharmaceutical Laboratory – ISO/IEC 17025**

The need for Pharmaceutical Laboratory to achieve national and global recognition through demonstration of conformance to international standards led to the establishment of an accreditation program for Pharmaceutical Laboratory under the auspices of **EAS**. The general criteria for accreditation or Pharmaceutical Laboratory are contained within ISO/IEC 17025. Pharmaceutical laboratories seeking accreditation need to comply within the following requirements.

The quality management system, scientific and technical aspect of Pharmaceutical Laboratories as required by ISO/IEC: 17025 and regulatory documents.

Participation in proficiency Testing /PT/ or Inter- Laboratory Comparison /ILC/, where possible.



Ethiopian economy policy initiated by the government in eliminating barriers to trade hence providing greater trust to export markets it imperative for accreditation laboratories to demonstrate competence and hence entrench requisite confidence, trust and reliability with respect to conformity assessment result that accompany trade goods and services. For accreditation company trade goods and services. For accreditation, the laboratories should be legally identifiable and appropriately registered. They can be part of a big organization or an independent entity.

#### **EAS Provides accreditation to:-**

- ❖ Laboratories undertaking and sort of testing or calibration in the specified fields.
- ❖ Private or government and large laboratories
- ❖ Site facilities, temporary field operations and laboratories

#### **EAS scope for accreditation**

- ❖ **Calibration laboratories:-**
- ❖ **Veterinary testing:-**
- ❖ **Testing laboratories:-**
- ❖ **Forensic testing:-.**
- ❖ **Civil engineering testing**

- ❖ **Electrical testing**
- ❖ **Environmental testing**
- ❖ **Mechanical testing**
- ❖ **Optical and radiometry testing**

### **3. Certification Scheme**

The certification scheme in EAS offers accreditation to certification bodies offering Management system certification, process, product, services certification and personnel certification. Accreditation is based on the assessment of performance of a certification body including (as appropriate) procedures, staff competence, inspection, review of product acceptability, and reporting, certifying bodies are accredited according to their scopes of work, under the following standards:-

- ❖ ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015- Requirements for bodies provide audit and certification of management system.
- ❖ ISO/IEC 17024:2012 General requirements for bodies operate certification of persons.
- ❖ ISO/IEC 17065: 2012Requirements for bodies certify products, processes and services.

#### **3.1 . Accreditation of Management System Certification Bodies ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015**

Accreditation by **EAS** for bodies offering management system certification demonstrations that an organization has the requirements of the international standard ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 conformity assessment requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management system for management system certification bodies and is able to competently audit and certify management system. A management system is framework of processes and objectives.

A certification body's scope of accreditation indicates the management systems for which it is accredited to audit and certify.



**EAS** accredits conformity assessment bodies for the following management system certification schemes:-

- ❖ Quality Management System (ISO 9001)
- ❖ Environment Management System (ISO 14001)
- ❖ Food Safety Management System (ISO 22000)
- ❖ Occupational Health and Safety Management System (ISO 45001)

### **3.2 Accreditation of Personnel Certification Body ISO/IEC 17024:2012**

Accreditation of Personnel Certification Body is the process of assessing and publicly recognizing the credibility, impartiality and technical competency of the organization personnel certification or registration services.



Personnel certification or registration bodies provide service for many professional personnel.

This is a requirement for bodies that certify or register person's e.g auditors, inspectors, drivers, electricians, doctors, nurses, engineers, lawyers and etc

The certification body should be able to demonstrate that it has fulfilled the requirements for certifying or registering persons including the development and maintenance of a certification scheme for persons.

Accreditation is based on their professional competence as prescribed by ISO/IEC17024:2012 Conformity Assessment- General Requirement for bodies operating certification of persons.

### **3.3 Accreditation of Product Certification Bodies –ISO/IEC 17065:2012**

Product Certification is a means of demonstrating that a product, process, or service satisfies specified requirements. This is a scheme that evaluates the technical competence, integrity and independence of product certification bodies, based on the general requirements of ISO/IEC 17065 - Conformity Assessment – Requirements for products Processes and Services.

Product Certification:- is the process of certifying that a certain product has passed performance test and quality assurance tests, and meets qualification criteria stipulated in contract, regulations. or specification (typically called “Certification schemes: in the product certification industry).

Implementation of ISO/IEC 17065 ensures that the product certification bodies operate certification schemes in a competent, consistent, objective and impartial manner; there by facilitating the recognition of such bodies.

The overall aim of certifying processes, product or services is to give confidence to all interested parties that a process, product or service fulfills specified requirements. The value of certification is the degree of confidence and trust that is established by an impartial and competent demonstration of fulfillment of specified requirements by a third party.

**EAS** accreditation attests that a product certification body has demonstrated:-

It has competence to perform specific product certifications or specific types of product certification:

Its quality system is documented, is fully operational, and addresses and conforms to all elements of ISO/IEC17065. It is operating in accordance with the required quality system and fulfilling or meeting the requirements of customers.

#### **4. Inspection Scheme**

##### **Accreditation of Inspection Bodies ISO/IEC 17020:2012**

Accreditation of inspection provides inspection bodies with a means of demonstrating to the society and specifically to their customers their competence to carry out specific tasks in conformance to ISO/IEC 17020 (Conformity Assessment:- requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection) ISO/IEC17020 also used as a requirements document for accreditation or peer assessment or other assessments.



inspection accreditation service is available to all inspection bodies including in the house services and independent service, from one person operation to large- scale inspection bodies.

The following are a few examples of work for accreditation may be sought:-

Agricultural product, Vehicle inspection, Cargoes in containers and packages, Cast product

Cranes, Electrical equipment, Food, Fire equipment, Forged products, Information technology  
Mechanical Equipment, Pipelines, Rolled Products, Structures, Textiles Plants, welding

Inspection accreditation is based on the assessment of performance of an inspection body's staff and equipment competence, method, working environment and their measurement uncertainties. This helps to the conformity assessment body's customers to identify organization which are able to meet their needs.

Manufacturers also use inspection accreditation to offer clients assurance of their own in house inspection practices.



**EAS** conduct intensive assessments competently, impartially transparently and in a non discriminate way.

**Previous World Accreditation Day Mottos:-**

- ❖ Accreditation:- Supporting the work for Regulatory ( 2011)
- ❖ Accreditation:- Supporting Safe Food and Clean Drinking Water (2012)
- ❖ Accreditation:- Facilitation World Trade (2013)
- ❖ Accreditation: Delivering Confidence in the Provision of Energy (2014)
- ❖ Accreditation:- Supporting the Delivery of Health and Social Care ( 2015)
- ❖ Accreditation:- A Global Tool to Support Public Policy (2016)
- ❖ Accreditation:- Delivering Confidence in Construction and Built Environment ./2017/
- ❖ Accreditation:- Delivering a safe World /2018/
- ❖ Accreditation:- Adding Value to Supply Chain /2019/
- ❖ Accreditation:- Improving Food Safety 2020/
- ❖ Accreditation:-Supporting the Implementation of SDGs /2021/

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