



# Cross Frontier Accreditation Policy

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## **1. Purpose**

The purpose of this document is to detail the policy to be followed when EAS is requested to provide accreditation services in another country or economy where key activities are performed.

## **2. Scope**

This document is applicable to all EAS's accreditation programme when at least one Regional and/ or International scheme Arrangement deserves

## **3. References**

ILAC-G21:09/2012- Cross-Frontier Accreditation Principles for Cooperation

Regulation No. 421/2017

## **4. Responsibility**

It is the responsibility of Accreditation Directors and their perspective Team Leaders to implement this Policy with the permission of Director General/Deputy Director General.

## **5. Application for Accreditation to a foreign Accreditation Body**

The International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) strongly advises Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) to obtain domestic accreditation, however there may be reasons why a CAB to seek accreditation from outside Accreditation Bodies (AB) instead of EAS. This might be because:

- 5.1. The EAS might not offer the required scope of accreditation;
- 5.2. On the scopes where EAS is not a signatory to the ILAC MRA or IAF MLA;
- 5.3. When the CAB has commercial interest and dictated by its customer
- 5.4. The CAB is part of a group of CABs with a single owner who wants all the CABs to be accredited by the same AB;



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5.5. Regulatory requirements within the country require accreditation by a specific AB.

However, all those possible conditions shall be accepted when EAS gives approval, either to provide the assessment jointly or else to appear as an observer.

## **6. Condition for the acceptance of CAB's application by EAS**

If an applicant CAB decide on to apply to EAS for accreditation instead of the domestic accreditation body offering the required scope of accreditation, then EAS shall consider the following before accepting any contract:

- 6.1 Enquire if the applicant is aware of the domestic ILAC MRA or IAF MLA signatory accreditation body and whether domestic accreditation is held;
- 6.2 Suggest that the accreditation provided by a domestic accreditation body would better take account of local factors and conditions, where relevant;
- 6.3 Point out the equivalence of the domestic accreditation body 's as demonstrated through the ILAC/IAF Arrangement;
- 6.4 Determine if EAS has the required capability and resources for the assessment.
- 6.5 Point out that, according to the principles of part 3 of ILAC G21, and even if EAS accepts the application, the domestic accreditation body may be involved in the accreditation process.
- 6.6 EAS will proceed with the application only if the applicant persists in requiring accreditation and shall maintain all records of its rationale.
- 6.7 Invite the domestic accreditation body to observe the assessment process on its own expense

## **7 Cooperation with the Domestic Accreditation Body**

- 7.1 When an applicant CAB decide on to apply to EAS for accreditation instead of the domestic accreditation body offering the required scope of accreditation, then EAS shall firstly establish if an existing national law or any other regulatory requirement mandates sole responsibility for accreditation to the national accreditation infrastructure. If such legal mandate exists, EAS may provide accreditation services to the domestic CAB, if permission is granted by the national accreditation body to EAS to provide the accreditation services under the conditions as stipulated in paragraph 6.1 to 6.7, above.
- 7.2 If there is no national law preventing EAS from accrediting the CAB in another country,

then EAS will seek acceptance from the applicant before consulting with the domestic AB.

- 7.3 In those countries where there is an established accreditation body which is recognized by the ILAC MRA /IAF MLA, then EAS shall conduct the assessment either jointly with the domestic accreditation body or alone with permission from the domestic accreditation body, with the possibility to use their assessors as part of the EAS assessment team as per their competency.
- 7.4 When EAS decides to provide accreditation services outside country (Ethiopia), it should ensure that appropriate assessors are used, taking into account factors such as language, local laws and regulations, culture, etc., as well as technical competence requirements. EAS shall also consult the domestic accreditation body and take in to consideration any relevant accreditation requirements that the domestic accreditation body has set to suit the local conditions.
- 7.5 EAS shall cooperate to the greatest extent practicable with the domestic accreditation body by using its personnel, as appropriate on the assessment team. If it is not possible to include personnel from the domestic accreditation body on the assessment team, cooperation with the domestic accreditation body should be extended to invite the domestic accreditation body to observe the assessment.
- 7.6 Once the foreign AB obtains its ILAC MRA status, EAS shall again advise the CAB to transfer its accreditation to the domestic AB.
- 7.6.1 EAS, where possible, will take into consideration the results of previous assessments done by the domestic AB when we develop the assessment program for the CAB.
- 7.7 These principles also apply for re-assessment and follow up assessments performed by EAS.

## **8 Planning for Cross Frontier Assessments**

- 8.1 Where EAS is required to provide the assessment team, or part thereof, for a cross frontier assessment, the assessments shall be included into the annual assessment planning in order to ensure that EAS has the required resources for the assessment.

- 8.2 Where EAS has been requested to conduct assessments on behalf of another AB, EAS shall require the annual assessment plans for the specific facility.
- 8.3 In the case of a joint assessment, it shall be decided up front which AB will be responsible for the pre- and post- assessment processes, including the financial arrangements.
- 8.4 The EAS is responsible for the accreditation of the facility decision and will not be contracted out.

## **9 Fees**

- 9.1 The fees will be determined on a case by case basis and in accordance with EAS fee regulation Reg 476/ 2020 including any other costs that EAS is required to pay, such as the use of foreign based assessors and their affiliated fees.
- 9.2 The fees will be agreed between the parties involved.
- 9.3 Accommodation, transport (air travel ticket and local transport) and catering is covered by the CAB)
- 9.4 Travelling days are considering as man-days.

## **10 Control of Accredited Certification Bodies**

- 10.1 EAS shall record and maintain a list of all the countries in which each CB accredited by EAS issues certificates this will include:
  - 10.1.1 Countries into which certificates are directly issued from the Certification body's (CB's )head office or other office;
  - 10.1.2 Countries in which the CB operates from domestic offices, whatever the legal relationship of such offices with the parent CB.
- 10.2 The purpose of this list is to allow EAS to plan the assessment program for each of the accredited CB's with up to date information on the geographical spread of the CB's.
- 10.3 The scope of the CAB accredited by EAS will be up loaded in the website of EAS.

## **11 Accreditation Service Provided by External Accreditation Body**

When the external accreditation body is providing the accreditation service in Ethiopia, EAS

shall:-

- 11.1 Require the foreign Accreditation Body to adhere to the requirements of the cross frontier accreditation principles of the cooperation of ILAC/IAF i.e. ILAC-G21:09/2012 (Cross-Frontier Accreditation - Principles for Cooperation) and IAF MD 12: 2013 (IAF Mandatory Document for Assessment of Certification Activities for Cross Frontier Accreditation)
- 11.2 That the external Accreditation Body shall inform applicant/ accredited CAB the existence of EAS in Ethiopia and AB formally checks with EAS on its capability to provide the desired scope of accreditation. Where EAS cannot provide accreditation services in the requested scope, EAS shall formally write to both CAB and the external accreditation body for the purpose of reaching agreement regarding the provision of accreditation services by the external accreditation body.
- 11.3 The foreign or external accreditation body in consultation with client shall provide for EAS participations for a joint assessment of the CAB for smooth transition from the external accreditation body to EAS.



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Revision No.	Date approved	Revision History
1	2018-10-17	This document was revised because of the new ISO/IEC 17011;2017
1.1	2021-05-11	<p>Fee regulation changed Reg No. from 275/2012 to 476/2020 on Oct 7 2020</p> <p>Added clause 4.5 However, all those possible conditions shall be accepted when EAS gives approval, either to provide the assessment jointly or else to appear as an observer</p> <p>Clause 8.4 The EAS is responsible for the accreditation of the facility decision and will not be contracted out.</p> <p>Clause 9.4 Travelling days are considering as man-days.</p>
1.2	2022-05-09	<p>The document is revised due to the name Ethiopian National Accreditation Office (ENAO) change to Ethiopian Accreditation Service (EAS) and new logo developed</p>
1.3	2023-02-07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Correction done on page 1 that, this document was prepared by Meseret Tessema replaced by Zewdu Ayele (new quality manager).</li><li>• Former director general was resigned and replaced by Mrs. Meseret Tessema.</li></ul>