



KENYA ACCREDITATION SERVICE

(A STATUTORY ORGANIZATION OF GOVERNMENT)

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

KENAS IS FULL SIGNATORY AS ARRANGEMENT MEMBER OF AFRICAN ACCREDITATION COOPERATION (AFRAC)

Nairobi, 2 Oct 2017: KENAS has been awarded full signatory as an arrangement member of the African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC). Kenya becomes the sixth country to sign up to the AFRAC MRA after a successful peer evaluation that was carried out in December 2016. The recognition at a continental level is a laudable achievement for KENAS. AFRAC is a cooperation of accreditation bodies from African countries; sub-regional accreditation cooperations and stakeholders whose objective is to facilitate trade and contribute to the protection of health, safety and the environment, in Africa and thereby improving Africa's competitiveness. Arrangement Members include accreditation bodies that have signed the AFRAC MRA.

The AFRAC MRA Council agreed that KENAS be admitted to full signatory status as Arrangement Member of the AFRAC MRA for the following 5 scopes and 3 sub-scopes as highlighted:

- a) Calibration to ISO/IEC 17025
- b) Testing to ISO/IEC 17025
- c) Medical Testing to ISO 15189
- d) Inspection to ISO/IEC 17020
- e) Certification to ISO/IEC 17021-1 in the following sub-scopes:
 - QMS (ISO 9001)
 - EMS (ISO 14001)
 - FSMS (ISO 22000)

KENAS is also the first Arrangement Member to be recognized for the Food Safety Management System (FSMS) sub-scope, and also the first Arrangement Member to be recognized for the 5 scopes at a go.

AFRAC Arrangement Members are all independent accreditation bodies appointed or recognized by the government of the Member State or sub-regional block and legally established and operating in the African region. These accreditation bodies declare in their membership application that they are operating in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011, the relevant international documents International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the requirements of AFRAC.

Furthermore, Arrangement Members are accreditation bodies who have been peer evaluated under applicable AFRAC procedures and found to comply by the MRA Council with the requirement for admission as a signatory to the AFRAC MRA.

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The awarding of the AFRAC MRA is significant especially as we wait for the international recognition from ILAC and IAF. KENAS is the sole National Accreditation Body mandated by the Government of Kenya to provide accreditation services to Conformity Assessment Bodies.

Susan Munyiri-Ochieng'
Ag. Chief Executive Officer, KENAS

-ENDS-

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The authority of an accreditation body is generally derived by government. In Kenya, the organization mandated to offer accreditation services is the Kenya Accreditation Service (KENAS). It is established under the States Corporations Act, Cap 446; vide Legal Notice No. 55 of May 2009. KENAS is an associate member at the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and a member to the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) which are umbrella organizations that oversee global accreditation activities.

A. KENAS is mandated among other things to:-

1. To provide accreditation services to the following conformity assessment bodies:
 - a. Veterinary Laboratory Accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025 and OIE
 - b. Products, Processes and Services to ISO/IEC 17065
 - c. Certification of Persons Accreditation to ISO/IEC 17024
 - d. Point of Care Testing Providers Accreditation to ISO 22870 & ISO 15189
 - e. Testing & Calibration Laboratories to ISO/IEC 17025
 - f. Medical laboratories to ISO 15189
 - g. Proficiency Test Service providers to ISO/IEC 17043
 - h. Inspection & Verification bodies to ISO/IEC 17020
 - i. Management systems accreditation ISO/IEC 17021
 - j. Reference Medical Laboratories ISO/IEC 15195
 - h. Create order in trade in products and services;
2. Eliminate incompetent practices;
3. Provide a level playing ground to CABs; and
4. Provide competitive accreditation services which are internationally recognized.

B. Conformity Assessment Bodies are those organization's that assess the compliance and or conformance of products, services and suppliers to guided specifications and requirements e.g. Personnel certification bodies, food testing and processing bodies, testing and calibration laboratories, proficiency testing laboratories, inspection and verification bodies, medical laboratories, certification bodies etc.

C. Accreditation is distinct from certification. Certification focuses on an organization's overall compliance with systems and products standards rather than the technical competence which is what accreditation focuses on. Therefore accreditation becomes a formal recognition to the CABs that they are competent to carry out conformity assessment tasks.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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