KENAS, NTSA & KEBS IN PARTNERSHIP TO ENHANCE MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY

The Kenya Accreditation Service (KENAS), Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) and National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in October 2016 which acknowledges the importance and contribution of Standards, Metrology, and Conformity Assessment to quality improvement, safety enhancement, production efficiency and commercial exchange.

The MoU outlines the role played by the three institutions in their respective capacities as quality infrastructure institutions in fulfilling the provision of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) of the World Trade Organization (WTO). This MoU also considers the need to promote standards, accreditation, and credible conformity assessments within the Republic of Kenya, as a means of protecting the interests of consumers, investors and other stakeholders.

Since the launch of the MoU, several awareness and sensitization campaigns jointly hosted by the three parties were carried out in November 2016 within Nairobi, Mombasa, Nakuru, Kisumu, Eldoret and Nyeri towns. The awareness targeted stakeholders in the vehicle manufacturing business, passenger service vehicle body builders, public service vehicle operators, the Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM) and the Kenya Association of Body Manufacturers (KABM).
PEER EVALUATION FOR KENAS

KENAS recently underwent a joint ILAC/IAF/AFRAC peer evaluation from November 29th - December 2nd, 2016. This is a significant part of the journey towards international recognition by the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC) and International Accreditation Forum (IAF).

The main objective of the peer evaluation activities is to evaluate the conformance of the National Accreditation Bodies (NABs) such as KENAS, to the internationally agreed requirements and to ensure that regulators, stakeholders and the business community can have confidence in certificates and reports issued by conformity assessment bodies under the ILAC/IAF Mutual Recognition Agreement / Multilateral Arrangement (ILAC/IAF MRA/MLA).

LAUNCH: ACCREDITATION OF POINT OF CARE TESTING PROVIDERS

On 18th August, 2016, KENAS launched a new area of accreditation - Accreditation of Point of Care Testing (POCT) Providers at the Sarova Panafric Hotel, Nairobi. The accreditation program of Point of Care Testing is to ISO 22870 (Point of Care - Requirements for Quality and Competence) & ISO 15189 (Medical laboratories – requirements for Quality and Competence). KENAS is the first accreditation body in Africa to venture into this new field of accreditation of POCT providers.

Point of Care Testing is basically laboratory testing that is performed outside a medical laboratory. POCT includes blood sugar testing, pregnancy testing, HIV/AIDS testing, Cancer Marker testing and so forth. Therefore, POCT is a common standard of care in disaster situations, hospitals and clinics to provide results within a short period of time thus enabling the patient to obtain urgent treatment and avoid preventable death or diseases.

This accreditation program was brought to life through partnership between CLSI (Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute) CDC (Centre for Diseases and Prevention Control), and KENAS. CLSI's support included facilitating KENAS with proper quality and compliance guidelines critical for accreditation of

1. Patients are assured of the quality of the testing services offered at the point of care.
2. Providers of POCT are able to demonstrate their compliance to defined standards of best international standards.
3. It provides authoritative assurance of technical competence of the POCT provider to undertake specific measurements and analysis according to validated methods.
4. It reduces risks for the POCT provider and the patient due to the quality assessments performed on the POCT provider.
POCT providers. The Health and Safety Division staff were exposed to how the Institute of Quality Management in Healthcare (IQMH) in Canada uses ISO 22870, ISO 15189 and ISO 15190 in their accreditation program. The was a much needed opportunity for KENAS in better understanding of the global impact of accreditation prior to its launch in August 2016.

The African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC) launched an e-learning program during its 7th General Assembly meeting in September 2016 in Abiya, Nigeria.

This e-learning program is aimed at enhancing knowledge of accreditation, conformity assessments and mutual recognition arrangements in a user friendly on-line platform.

It has 6 modules customized to facilitate knowledge transfer easily. The modules are:

1. **Accreditation in International Trade:**
Provides a general understanding of how accreditation of Conformity Assessment Bodies plays a role in supporting international trade in goods and services

2. **Introduction to the principles of ISO/IEC 17011 – General requirements for operation of accreditation bodies that accredit conformity assessment bodies:**
Provides a general understanding of the principles of the requirements and application of accreditation to conformity assessment bodies

3. **Establishing and efficiently managing a new accreditation body:**
Provides a generic understanding of the inputs required for establishing and efficiently managing a new Accreditation Body (AB).

4. **Training of National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs):**
Provides training for NAFP’s to promote and participate in the work of AFRAC, raise awareness about the importance of accreditation among national stakeholders that have an interest in quality and support the CAB’s in their respective economies that want to apply for accreditation.

5. **Toolkit for Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) in the process of preparing for accreditation:**
Provides a generic understanding of the route towards accreditation for CABs.

6. **Peer Evaluator Training:** Provides preliminary training for Peer Evaluators to obtain the necessary background knowledge as a pre-requisite for AFRAC’s Classroom Peer-Evaluator Training Course.

You can access the e-learning module on this link: [http://afracelearning.onlinecf.net/login/index.php](http://afracelearning.onlinecf.net/login/index.php)
or through our website homepage: [www.kenas.go.ke](http://www.kenas.go.ke)
**TRANSITION DOCUMENT FOR ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015**

The ISO 17021-1:2015 was published on 15th June 2015 to replace the ISO/IEC 17021:2011.

**ISO 17021-1:2015 (Conformity Assessment Requirements for Bodies Providing Audit and Certification of Management Systems – Part 1: Requirements).**

There is a two year transition period into the new standard which runs until 14th June 2017. ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 contains principles and requirements for the competence, consistency and impartiality of bodies providing audit and certification of all types of management systems (e.g. quality management systems, environmental management systems among others).

Click here to access the KENAS transition document.

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**KENYA MANUFACTURING WEEK / INDUSTRIALIZATION WEEK**

During November 16th - 18th, 2016, the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives partnered with the Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to commemorate the Africa Industrialization Day and host the Kenya Manufacturing / Industrialization Week. Discussions aimed at enhancing policies and controls that reduce technical barriers to trade for manufacturers were held. A large representation of Kenya’s manufacturing sector showcased its level of development whilst promoting good quality of locally manufactured products.

KENAS engaged with the manufacturers in sensitizing them to seek accreditation of their testing laboratories for purposes of ensuring production of more accurate test results of their products which are credible and acceptable globally.

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**ILAC-IAF JOINT ANNUAL MEETINGS**

The joint annual meetings of IAF (International Accreditation Forum) and ILAC (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation) were held in New Delhi, India from 26th October to 4th November, 2016. Representing KENAS in the meetings were: CEO, Sammy Milgo and the Deputy Director, Technical Services, Susan Munyiri-Ochieng.

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**ISO/TC 212 MEETING**

The Assistant Director of Health and Safety, Doris Mueni participated in the ISO/TC 212 meeting which was held in Japan. The scope of this Technical Committee (TC) 212 is standardization and guidance in the field of laboratory medicine and in vitro diagnostic test systems.
Kenya is set to transition from obsolete construction standards to Eurocodes for use by the players in the Structural Engineering Sector. The Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS), the National Standards Body, recently launched the guiding framework for adoption. According to KEBS, adoption of the Eurocodes is aimed at eliminating disparities that hinder the transfer of engineering technology services within the country and its global markets.

Speaking during the Eurocodes launch, the Deputy Director of Finance and Administration, John Kamau stated that this is a significant area of conformity assessment. Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) such as testing laboratories and inspection bodies play a key role in assuring compliance with product standards in the construction industry such products include: concrete, pre-cast concrete, steel and timber.

NEWLY ACCREDITED C.A.B’S FROM JULY TO DECEMBER 2016

1. Testing Laboratories
   a. Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA)
   b. Kenya Pipeline Company (KPC)
2. Medical Laboratories
   a. PCEA Chogoria Hospital Laboratory
   b. EDARP- Eastern Dienary AIDS Relief Lab
   c. National Microbiology Reference Lab
   d. Medical Research Council Unit - Uganda
   e. Ampathplus Care Reference Laboratory

RE-ACCREDITED C.A.B’S FROM JULY TO DECEMBER 2016

1. Testing Laboratories
   a. KEPHIS Lab
   b. Intertek Testing Services Ltd
   c. KARLO laboratory
   d. Analabs
   e. Unga Limited.
   f. Kibos Sugar
2. Medical Laboratories
   a. Nairobi Hospital
   b. National HIV Reference Laboratory
3. Inspection Bodies
   a. Intertek Testing Service Ltd
4. Calibration Laboratories
   a. Ideal Quality Trail Systems
5. Proficiency Testing Providers
   a. HUQAS

EDITORIAL TEAM
Doris Mueni - Chairperson | Abraham Birgen - Vice Chairperson | Carey Ochogo - Member | Robert Njuguna - Member | Florence Wambui - Member | Grace Mugo - Member | Elizabeth Muema - Secretary