

Session 6 - Accreditation



Contents

- Definitions
- Hierarchy of Conformity assessment
- Global and regional networks

Definitions

Accreditation definitions

- Third party attestation related to a conformity assessment body (certification/inspection/verification/validation body, laboratory) conveying formal demonstration of its competence, consistent operation and impartiality in performing specific conformity assessment activities.
- In plain English, accreditation 'checks the checkers'. It is 3rd party assessment of an organization/body that provides evaluation services against the relevant standard.
- ISO/IEC have produced ISO/IEC 17011 standard on "Conformity assessment - General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies"

Videos on accreditation

1. An overview of accreditation,

Made by Comité français d'accréditation - COFRAC

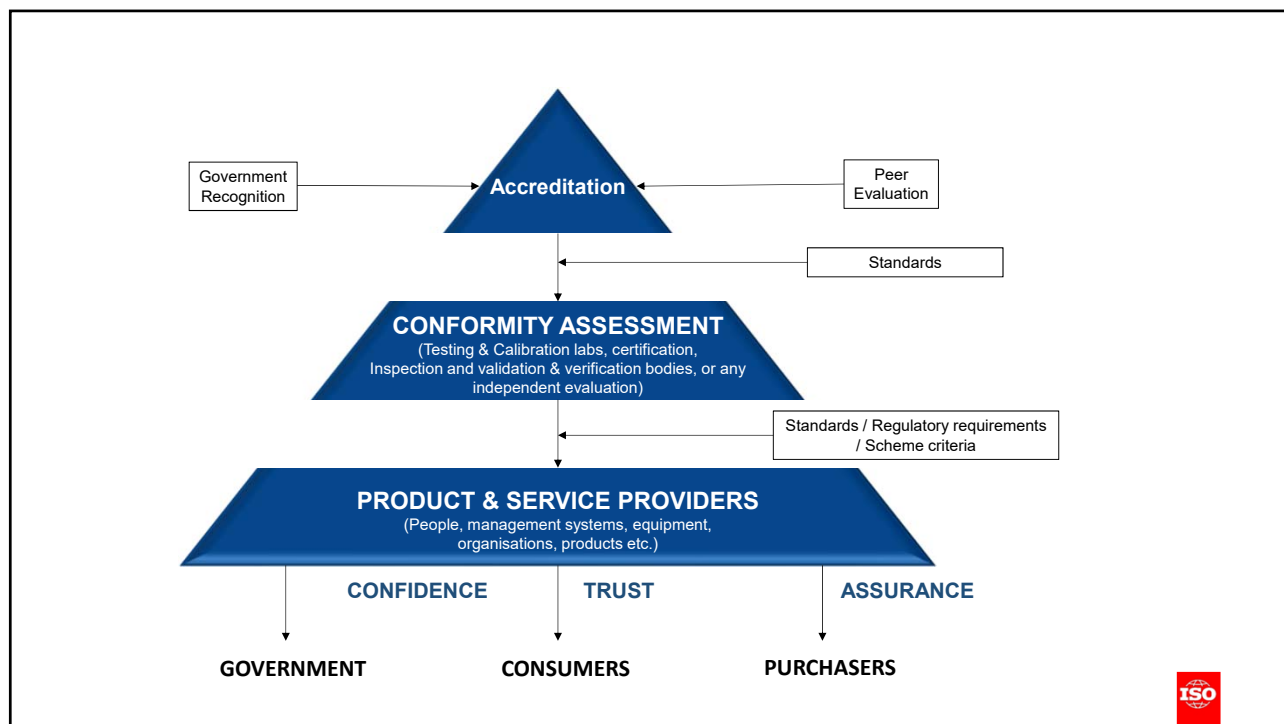


2. What is the Difference between Accreditation and Certification?,

Made by ANSI American National Standards Institute



Hierarchy of conformity assessment



Accreditation Bodies (ABs)

- Accredited:
 - Medical, testing and calibration laboratories
 - Inspection bodies
 - Certification bodies
 - Validation and Verification Bodies
 - Proficiency Testing Providers
 - Reference Material Producers

Accreditation Bodies (ABs)

- Some ABs are narrow in their focus and expertise, others have a broad operation. However, they all need to be competent to perform the accreditations they do.
- Accreditation involves the use of assessors with expertise in the area being accredited.
- ABs are often appointed or recognized by governments.



Global and regional networks

Global Network

- IAF and ILAC provide international networks of accreditation bodies.
- IAF and ILAC have the objective of achieving equivalence and acceptance of results through Multilateral Agreements (MLAs) and Arrangements (MRAs) between economies
- Their slogan “*Tested, inspected, certified once, accepted everywhere*” best explains it.
- Signatories to the MLAs and MRAs must be competent to ISO/IEC 17011
- Government and regulators rely on the MLAs and MRAs to further develop or enhance trade agreements



**International
Accreditation
Forum**



**International
Laboratory
Accreditation
Cooperation**



Regional Networks



European
Cooperation
for
Accreditation
(EA)



Inter-American
Accreditation
Cooperation
(IAAC)



Asia Pacific
Accreditation
Cooperation
(APAC)



Southern African
Development
Community
Accreditation
(SADCA)



African
Accreditation
Cooperation
(AFRAC)



Arab
Accreditation
Cooperation
(ARAC)

- The structure of the global accreditation system is divided into two levels: the regional level (EA, ARAC, APAC, SADCA, AFRAC and IAAC) and the global level (ILAC and IAF).
- The signatories to the networks represent 96% of global GDP.



Thank you

