



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR ACCREDITATION SERVICES PPL

INTRODUCTION TO IOAS

International Organization For Accreditation Services LLP (IOAS) is a Grenadian Government Owned, International Accreditation Body (AB). It works to serve the global communities of businesses and consumers. IOAS accredits appropriately qualified independent third party Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) such as Certification Bodies, Inspection Bodies, Testing & Calibration Laboratories and Medical Laboratories to ensure their competence to carry out specific tasks as per the International Standards & the Benchmarks. IOAS Accreditation is voluntary in nature. IOAS is a trading name for International Organization For Accreditation Services LLP. A company limited by shares

established in terms of Companies Act, 1753, Republic of Grenada. IOAS operates in accordance with the requirements, criteria, rules and regulations laid down in the following documents:

- The requirements of the international standard ISO/IEC 17011 – General requirements for bodies providing assessments and accreditation of conformity assessment bodies.
- The requirements and other benchmarks as stipulated in the Publicly Available Documents (PAD) published by various international bodies and IOAS.
- Legally established objectives as per Memorandum & Articles of Association with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs 233.

The Board of Director has overall authority and responsibilities for policies and procedures for the operations of IOAS. The Board delegates to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of IOAS the responsibility to implement the IOAS policies and procedures. Accreditation Approval Committees make decisions concerning the granting and continuation of accreditation. An independent Impartiality Committee representing the broad range of stakeholders reviews and adjudicates on possible conflicts of interest. The authority vested in IOAS is that assigned to them by the Conformity Assessment Bodies and other Organization it accredits and recognizes by virtue of these applicant and accredited bodies pledging support for the mission and objectives of IOAS and ensuring that their actions are according to that policy. It is an impartial and governmental body.

IOAS has specific permissions from International Organization for Standardization (ISO), International Accreditation Forum (IAF) to use their publications / documents / guidelines for the benefit of its Applicant and Accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies.

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Vision

Our vision is to serve global communities of businesses and consumers. We shall accomplish our vision through the successful implementation of an Accreditation System for Conformity Assessment Bodies and Further Education & Training Institutions that are responsible, responsive, recognized to demonstrate that their business critical processes are competent, professional and ethical resulting in value addition to our stakeholders.



Mission

To promote advancement of SQAM (Standardization, Quality, and Accreditation & Metrology), which protect the interest of the Global Communities of Businesses & Consumers.



Quality Policy

We are committed to provide distinguished and excellent accreditation services globally to the conformity assessment and further education sector

- We shall continually improve the effectiveness of the quality system within the confines of the international standard ISO 17011:2004
- We shall safeguard the integrity, objectivity and impartiality of our accreditation services
- We shall operate within the spirit of all relevant legislations
- Our goal is to serve Global Communities of Businesses and Consumers at all the time.

We Are What We do!

We are an impartial and governmental accreditation body.

- We consider accreditation as technical trade support activity
- We are responsive to the needs and expectations of our Stakeholders
- We are transparent in our dealings
- We have clarity on the technical approach to the accreditation
- We are open to and accept multiple points of view.
- We endeavor to provide differentiated solutions in a cost effective manner

Accreditation

It is a formal recognition by an independent body, generally known as an accreditation body, certifies Conformity Assessment Body to be capable and competent. Accreditation is not obligatory but it adds another level of confidence, as 'Accredited' means the Conformity Assessment Body has been independently checked to make sure it operates according to international standards.

International Standards

According to ISO/IEC Guide 2:2004 Standardization and related activities – General vocabulary, standard is a document established by consensus and approved by a recognized body that provides for common and repeated use, rules, guidelines or characteristics for activities or their results, aimed at the achievement of the optimum degree of order in a given context.

- Standards help to make life simpler and to increase the reliability and the effectiveness of many goods and services we use
- Standards are created by bringing together the experience and expertise of all interested parties such as the producers, sellers, buyers, users and regulators of a particular material, product, process or service
- Standards are designed for voluntary use and do not impose any regulations. However, laws and regulations may refer to certain standards and make compliance with them compulsory.
- Voluntary Standards become mandatory only when they are incorporated into contracts or they are referenced or adopted by government agencies as part of a regulation to protect public health, safety, and the environment
- The difference between a standard and a technical regulation lies in compliance. While conformity with standards is voluntary, technical regulations are by nature mandatory

Conformity Assessment

The process of demonstrating the essential features about a product or services which meet the requirement of standards, regulations and other specification is called conformity assessment. A variety of PROCESSES involved in verifying that goods/services meet acceptable voluntary or mandatory standards such as Testing , Surveillance, Inspection, Assessment, Auditing, Certification and Registration. Objectives of Conformity Assessment are to:

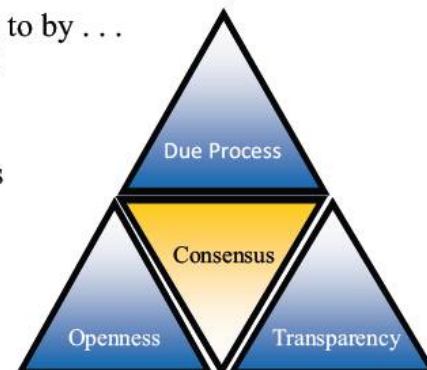
Ensure the conformance of products/services with relevant standards (ISO, IEC/BIS etc)

- Encourage international trade (attempts to check trade malpractices)
- Prevent sale of substandard/unsafe product
- Prevent importation of substandard products
- Save lives and property
- Prevent pollution of air and water
- Conserve hard-earned foreign exchange

Internationally Accepted Standards and Conformity Assessment Principles

Agreed to by . . .

- WTO
- ISO
- IEC
- SDOs



IOAS

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www.ioaservices.org

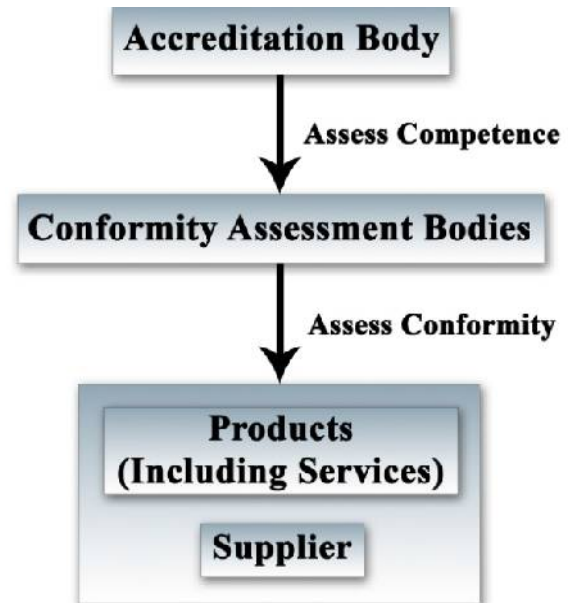


International Organization For Standardization

International Organization of Standardization (ISO)

ISO is a global network that recognizes as to which international standard will be required by business, society, government – develops them and adopts them by the use of transparent procedure in order to be implemented worldwide. It is a federation of national standard bodies amongst various countries, one per country.

International Organization for Standardization (ISO) states that “ISO itself has no authority to control conformity assessment activities, whether these are business activities by its members or by other organizations”. Further, International Organization for Standardization (ISO) states that “private sector organizations may perform conformity assessment services as a commercial activity or regulatory bodies under a mandate may perform these services when ISO standards have been incorporated into public legislation, the aim of which is to create confidence among suppliers and their clients.”



Accreditation bodies assess the competence of CABs. They can facilitate trade by promoting global acceptance of conformity assessment results issued by accredited CABs. This is strengthened if they are pre-evaluated and are members of mutual recognition arrangements among the accreditation bodies.

CABs assess conformity of products, services and suppliers to specifications and/or requirements.

Purchasers acquire products (including services) that conform to specifications or buy from suppliers that conform to specific requirements. Regulators may set requirements for products and suppliers.

[ISO/IEC 17011:2004\(E\)](#)

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IOAS



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**INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION
FOR ACCREDITATION SERVICES PPL**

**Request For
Application Pack**

**Recieve The
Application Pack**

**File
Application**

**Recieve
Proposal**

**Enter
Contract**

**Prepare For
Accreditation**

**Documentation
Review**

**Preliminary Assessment/
Counselling Visit (Optional)**

**Prepare For
Accreditation**

**Accreditation Assessment
(Onsite / Witness)**

**Corrective
Action**

**Accreditation Approval
Commitee Decision**

**Accreditation
Certificate**

**Surveillance Assessment
(Yearly)**

**Re-Assessment
(Every Three Years)**

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