

LATAK-D.047-02/02.2024

LATAK Policy for Recognition of Conformity Assessment Schemes

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The document text may be translated into other languages. The text in Latvian shall be considered the main text.

Additional information

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Objective

This document stipulates the policy of the State Agency “Latvian National Accreditation Bureau” (hereinafter – LATAK) for recognition and acceptance of conformity assessment schemes (CASs). This document and the applicable document of the European Accreditation Cooperation (EA) provide descriptions for the cooperation of LATAK with owners of conformity assessment schemes and conformity assessment bodies (CABs).

1. Introduction

This document shall be applicable in the non-regulated sphere. The procedures and criteria shall also apply during assessment of CASs in the regulated sphere. The basic requirements for assessment and acceptance of CASs are defined in the document EA-1/22 A-AB:2023 “EA Procedure and Criteria for the Accreditation Conformity Assessment Schemes”. At the international level the acceptance requirements for conformity assessment schemes are defined in IAF MD 25:2023 document.

2. Terminology and definitions

Conformity assessment scheme (CAS) – a documented and publicly accessible set of requirements, including the following:

- conformity assessment object, for example, a product, process, service, system, etc.;
- requirements, according to which the conformity assessment is performed;
- method/principle, by which conformity is determined, for example, testing, inspection, verification, validation, auditing and other supportive activities for determination of conformity;
- requirements specified by the scheme owner for conformity assessment bodies and any specific application or interpretations of such requirements, if applicable;
- any specific application or interpretation of ISO/IEC 17011 standard, if applicable;
- organisations specially established for particular tasks;
- governmental bodies.

Scheme owner – an organization, which is responsible for creating and maintaining specific conformity assessment schemes. For example:

- standardisation bodies¹;
- conformity assessment bodies;
- organizations, which buy or sell products or services subject to conformity assessment activities;
- manufacturers or their associations, which have developed their own conformity assessment schemes.

The national accreditation organization (LATAK) cannot be a CAS owner. If all requirements for CASs are fully defined in one standard, which is published by an international, regional or national standardisation body, the requirements of this document shall not apply.

¹ Except the instances, when requirements for CASs are fully defined in standards and the role of the standardisation body is only to develop a standard.

3. LATAK policy

3.1. Before a conformity assessment scheme (CAS) is accepted as applicable for accreditation, evaluation of CAS shall be carried out in cooperation with the scheme owner. LATAK cooperates with scheme owners that are legal entities (or structural units of legal entity, which are independently entitled to adopt decisions about their activities). Scheme owners are entitled to set and change requirements for conformity assessment schemes.

3.2. The conformity assessment process shall be included in any of EA MLA Level 2 standards (see EA-1/06). Scheme owners may set specific requirements for an accreditation body, if they are set in compliance with ISO/IEC 17011, EC Regulation 765/2008 and other regulatory documents of EA, IAF or ILAC.

4. Assessment of conformity assessment schemes

4.1. Before the evaluation of CAS, LATAK signs the agreement with CAS owner regarding the cooperation principles and exchange of information. The cooperation principles are based on mentioned EA and IAF basic rules.

4.2. For a conformity assessment scheme to be accepted as being applicable to accreditation, the most relevant standard for conformity assessment shall be identified, which should be used for conformity assessment of CABs in the respective CAS. For the assessment of CAS, the scheme owner shall submit to LATAK the information specified in Annex 1 to EA-1/22.

4.2. If the owner of accreditation scheme plans to carry out activities in several countries, the scheme owner shall inform LATAK about it in writing prior to commencement of the assessment process. In order to ensure a unified approach to international application of conformity assessment schemes in all EA member states, the conditions of Paragraph 4.2 of the document EA 1/22 are observed.

4.3. LATAK ensures communication among the scheme owner, EA and other national accreditation bodies.

Register of changes

Version	Content of changes	Date
00	Initial approval of the document	February 2014
01	The document is updated according to requirements of EA 1/22 A-AB:2020	21.09.2021
02	Updated documents EA-1/22 A-AB:2023 and EA-1/06 A-AB:2022, as well as document is updated with reference to IAF MD 25, to the CAS owner categories are added governmental bodies and organisations specially designed for that purposes.	12.02.2024.