



Procedure
Cross-Frontier Accreditation

Code: P17
Version: 01

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1 Purpose and scope

The purpose of this document is to detail the procedure to be followed when SOAC receives an application from a conformity assessment body that is not based within the Member States.

This document is applicable to all CABs established outside the Member States seeking for SOAC accreditation.

2 References

- ISO/IEC 17011, Conformity assessment — Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies;
- ILAC-G21, Cross-Frontier Accreditation - Principles for Cooperation;
- IAF MD12, Accreditation Assessment of Conformity Assessment Bodies with Activities in Multiple Countries;
- ECOWAS Regulation C/REG/10/6/17 on organization and operation of the Regional Accreditation System (ECORAS).

3 Distribution list

All services concerned.

4 Effective date and review

This document is applicable from the date mentioned on the cover page. It will be updated as necessary.

5 Summary of changes

Version 00: creation.

Version 01: revision to some sections and update of the table of modifications.

6 Terms and definitions

- **UEMOA region:** the Member States of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Togo)
- **ECOWAS region:** the Member States of the Economic Community of West African States (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo)
- **Foreign region:** Conformity Assessment Body established outside the ECOWAS region
- **UEMOA:** West Africa Economic and Monetary Union
- **ECOWAS:** Economic Community of West Africa States

7 Process description

As the only authorized accreditation body in the eight-member states of the West Africa Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), SOAC is committed to focusing its services on bodies that are established within the Union.

However, the purpose of this document is to detail the procedure to be followed when SOAC receives an application from a conformity assessment body that is not based within its Member States.

Within West Africa, the rules on cross-frontier accreditation are tightly governed by the ECOWAS Accreditation System (ECORAS) Regulation C/REG/10/6/17 on the text on the organization and operation of the Regional Accreditation System (ECORAS). Regulation C/REG/10/6/17 states that Accreditation bodies shall respect the principle of territoriality: a

conformity assessment body (CAB) seeking accreditation shall do so only from the Accreditation Body covering the country where it is established. So far, concerned countries are Ghana (GhaNAS, the Ghanaian Accreditation Body), Nigeria (NiNAS, the Nigerian Accreditation Body) and UEMOA Member States (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo with SOAC).

For SOAC Cross-Frontier Accreditation in the rest of the World, specifically the five remaining countries in West Africa: Cape Verde, the Gambia, Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, guidance is provided by two international accreditation groups.

These two groups are the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF). Therefore, whilst not banning accreditation bodies from offering accreditation to CABs from outside its borders, SOAC will promote the multilateral agreements of both ILAC and IAF, and inform interested parties that accreditation should be sought from the local accreditation body. Further details on the guidance provided on international Cross-frontier accreditation can be found in IAF Mandatory Document MD12 and ILAC Guidance Document G-21. SOAC is also taking into account when existing, the mandatory regulation vis-à-vis accreditation in the country where the CAB is established. According to its Rules of Procedure, Section on Territoriality, SOAC undertakes, with the agreement of the candidate for Accreditation, to proceed with the subsequent transfer of the Accreditation to the national body once the latter has been established.

8 Related documents

Refer to F02P01-Current QMS Control list

9 Table of modifications

No.	Source	Modification in brief (Relevant changes)
P17.00- 1st July 2019		
Creation		
P17.01- 16 October 2019		
1	§ 2	The references have been revised in line with the wording of the standards
2	§ 6	The words "abbreviation" (title) has been replaced by "Terms" (title)
3	§ 7	This section has been updated
4	§ 8	This section has been revised : the words "related forms" (title) have been replaced by "related documents" (title)