Scope

This policy applies to ALGERAC when accepting and/or assessing a sector Scheme.

Purpose

This document lays down the policy regarding:
- ✓ The conditions under which ALGERAC can establish formal relationships with Scheme owners
- ✓ the nature of the relationships with the Scheme Owner
- ✓ the evaluation process
- ✓ the decision-taking process.

References

- EA-1/22 A-AB EA Procedure and Criteria for the Evaluation of Conformity Assessment Schemes by EA. Accreditation Body Members
- EA-1/06 A-AB EA Multilateral Agreement. Criteria for signing. Policy and procedures for development
- Regulation of the European Commission 765/2008

Definitions

Conformity Assessment Scheme (CAS): In this document, conformity assessment scheme is understood as the set of documents that establish:

I) The requirements / reference documents that must be used by the Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) (i.e. test procedures, regulatory documents against which the certification or inspection is going to be performed, etc.)

II) The requirements applicable to the CABs that specify criteria regarding their organization, mode of operation, staff, equipment, reports, etc.

III) The requirements applicable to the organizations that perform assessments of CABs (accreditation bodies or other organizations performing assessments of CABs).

Scheme owner (SO): Organization that has established a CAS. The following are examples of SOs:

- ✓ Standardization bodies
- ✓ Conformity Assessment Bodies
- ✓ Public administration bodies
- ✓ Organizations that use services provided by CABs
- ✓ Organizations that buy or sell products subject to conformity assessment activities

SO Recognition (of the CAB): Recognition means that the SO is authorizing the CABs to carry out activities within the remit of the scheme provided that they have accreditation. The SO, through such a recognition process, may authorize the CAB to, for example:

- ✓ Perform conformity assessment activities in the regulatory field
- ✓ Perform conformity assessment activities so that these can be recognized by certain organizations that make use of the reports or certificates (COI, IWTO, WADA, EFI, etc.).
- ✓ Perform conformity assessment activities on products or systems so that such activities can be taken into account in their buying decisions (EUREPGAP, BRC, AECMA, GFSI, etc.)

Note: Not all the CAS include recognition

Scheme Specific Requirements (for Accreditation Bodies): Specific applications of any ISO/IEC 17011 requirement for a particular scheme established by the SO.

Scheme Specific Requirements (for the CAB): Requirements laid down by the SO at the CAB level these requirements may go beyond but must not contradict, nor exclude, any of the requirements included in the standards used for accreditation (ISO/IEC 17025, ISO/IEC 17020, etc.). (See table below in Annex 2 EA 1/22)

End User (of a CAS): The party in the market that uses the information issued by a CAB (report, certificate, mark, etc.) within its decision making process. Typically, End Users are the public authorities in the regulatory field, or buyers/specifies of tested, certified or inspected goods

Policy

ALGERAC recognizes all sector schemes operated under EA MLA.

ALGERAC will analyze if the CASs operated at the national level fulfill the relevant requirements laid down in Clause 4 of EA 1/22 before establishing formal relationship.

If a CAS does not meet such requirements ALGERAC will make it clear to the SO, the CABs, and the general market.

ALGERAC will not participate if the CAS has been produced without demonstrated market demand. ALGERAC cooperation in the development of a CAS will be limited to aspects related to assessment.

The assessment processes shall fulfill all the requirements established in ISO/IEC 17011.

Evaluation processes carried out on the national or regional market must meet all the requirements of ISO / IEC 17011 and / or Regulation 765/2008, but must also be carried out by highly qualified assessors according to criteria (levels 2, 3.5 and / or 4) of table No. 3 of EA 1-06 A-AB)
In no circumstances ALGERAC will accept for accreditation decisions to be changed or influenced by any type of revision of the CAS by the SO.

When operating a national CAS, ALGERAC will ensure that both in the accreditation certificate and in the accredited certificates/reports issued by the CAB, activities covered and those not covered by the MLA are clearly differentiated.

If ALGERAC cooperating with a SO at the national level, believes that the CAS also has an impact on the European market, it will inform EA and also recommend to the SO that it gets in touch with EA.

GENERAL DIRECTOR

N.BOUDISSA

Annex: The following table provides an overview of what a SAC should include, as a minimum, for different types of activities. (According to EA 1/22)

Conformity assessment activity	Description of (at least):
Calibration and testing (including medical tests)	• The application area (object, matrix, scope • Calibration and test methods; Performance characteristics of methods; • Requirements applicable to laboratories, supplementary to international standards for laboratories, for example ISO/IEC 17025 or ISO 15189; • • Requirements against which the object is to be tested or calibrated. These requirements may be international standards, or legal requirements, or standards set out within the sector or specifications of a group of manufacturers • Specific requirements concerning e.g. internal and/or external quality control procedures and/or performance characteristics, if any.

Conformity assessment activity	Description of (at least):
Inspection	• The application area (object, matrix, scope • Requirements against which the object of inspection is to be judged. These requirements may be international standards, or legal requirements, or standards set out within the sector or specifications of a group of manufacturers; • Inspection methods, if relevant, including any examinations which need to be performed as part of the conformity assessment activity requirements applicable to inspection bodies, supplementary to ISO/IEC 17020.

Certification	• The object of certification:
	  ○ Management systems; or
	  ○ Products, services and processes; or
	  ○ Persons (expertise, competence);
	• Requirements against which the object of certification shall be assessed and certified. These requirements may be international standards, or standards or specifications set out within the sector or specifications of a group of manufacturers;
	• Description of the certification system requirements applicable to certification bodies, supplementary to the international standards for certification bodies.