

INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

SANAS is represented internationally, and is currently a signatory to various international arrangements and mutual recognition agreements, giving international equivalence to calibration certificates and reports produced by SANAS accredited laboratories in South Africa.

USE OF THE SANAS ACCREDITATION SYMBOL AND COMBINED MARK

Once accredited, a facility is entitled to use the accreditation symbol on its reports, certificates, marketing material and stationery, in accordance with the rules as prescribed by SANAS.

The facility is also entitled to use the combined mark (the SANAS accreditation symbol and the ILAC MRA mark combined) subject to signing the sub license agreement.

CURRENT FIELDS OF ACCREDITATION IN CALIBRATION

- Mass and volume;
- Dimensional;
- Time and frequency;
- Radio frequency;
- Electrical - DC low frequency;
- Acoustics and vibration;
- Temperature and humidity;
- Torque, force and hardness;
- Radiation dosimetry;
- Radiometry, photometry and fibre optics;
- Gas and air pollution metrology;
- Flow;
- Viscosity;
- Pressure.

TYPICAL INSTRUMENTS / EQUIPMENT CALIBRATED

- Scales, balances and weights;
- Pipettes and laboratory glassware;
- Micrometers, gauge blocks and setting pieces;
- Vernier callipers;
- Stop watches and tachometers;
- Frequency generators and counters;
- Communication analysers;
- Multimeters, oscilloscopes and electrical test equipment;
- Thermocouples, digital and liquid-in-glass thermometers;
- Hygrometers;
- Torque, force and hardness;
- Dosimeters;
- Light (lux) meters;
- Breathalysers;
- Flow meters.

ENQUIRIES:

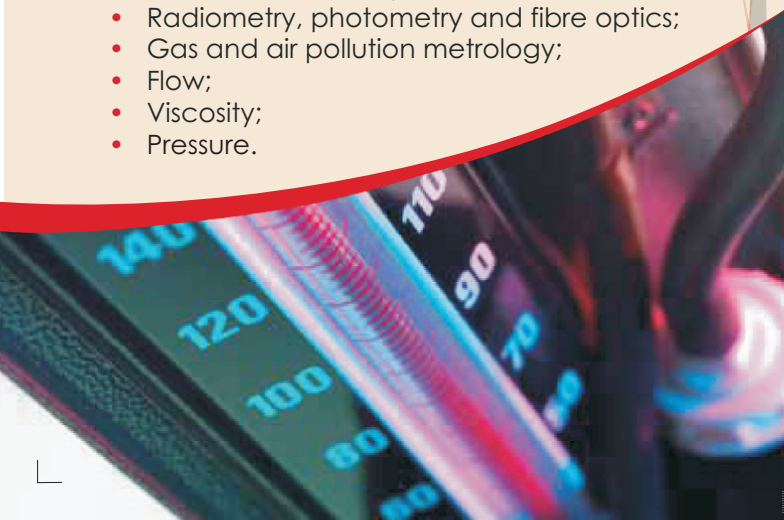
Must be directed to the relevant Accreditation Manager

Website:

www.sanas.co.za



ACCREDITATION OF CALIBRATION LABORATORIES



THE ESSENTIAL LINK IN INDUSTRY

Calibration laboratories form an integral part of the manufacturing processes of South African industry.

Numerous physical measurements are made every minute of every day by industry. The accuracy of these measurements is influenced by the reliability of calibration laboratories accredited by the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS). Calibration laboratories form the essential link between the National Measuring Standards, and the working standards, test and measurement equipment used in industry.

THE SCHEDULE OF ACCREDITATION

SANAS accreditation of a calibration laboratory is granted as the result of an independent third party assessment of the capability of the laboratory to perform calibrations against a schedule of accreditation, which includes details of the:

- Parameters;
- Ranges;
- Calibration and Measurement capability (CMC), within which the laboratory can operate.
- Assessments are carried out by trained technical and lead assessors, to exacting requirements designed to meet the demanding criteria for international acceptance.

THE ACCREDITATION STANDARD

Calibration laboratories are accredited against:

- ISO/IEC 17025;
- SANAS technical requirements documents;
- The organisation's own Quality Management System.

PROFILE OF ASSESSORS

The assessors are representative of the public, private and academic sectors. They are drawn from a pool of metrologists many of whom are active in calibration laboratories.

Prospective technical assessors undergo a training course, which covers:

- Laboratory systems;
- ISO 17025 requirements;
- The SANAS technical requirements documents;
- Assessment techniques.

The course includes simulated laboratory assessments based on real case studies.

THE ASSESSMENT TEAM

The assessment team is made up of a lead assessor and at least one technical assessor with experience relevant to the area being assessed.

Role of the lead assessor

The lead assessor is responsible for managing the assessment team and assessment process, and to assess the management requirements.

On completion of the assessment, the lead assessor meets with the technical assessors and the findings will be graded as major or minor.

Based on the extent and nature of the non-conformances raised during the assessment, the lead assessor will make a recommendation on the accreditation status of the laboratory.

Role of the technical assessors

The technical assessors are responsible for advising the lead assessor on technical matters relating to the assessment process.

The technical assessors' function is to:

- Observe the performance of calibrations;
- Evaluate the suitability of calibration procedures;
- Evaluate laboratory personnel with respect to experience, qualifications, performance and training;
- Interview staff members;
- Conduct a vertical assessment of a previously conducted calibration work;
- Assess the organisation against the technical requirements of ISO/IEC 17025.

APPLICATION FOR ACCREDITATION

An organisation wishing to obtain accreditation:

- Prepare a management manual describing how the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025 are addressed by the laboratory;
- Submit a completed online application form, management manual with relevant procedures and test methods to SANAS;
- Requests a quotation from SANAS for the application fee, document review and initial assessment;
- SANAS arranges for a review of the management manual;
- If the management manual is acceptable, the arrangements for the initial assessment are made;
- If not, the organisation is required to make the necessary amendments and submit these to SANAS

THE INITIAL ASSESSMENT

The initial assessment takes place against the general, standard, resource, process and management requirements of ISO/IEC 17025 and the SANAS requirement documents. Where appropriate, checklists are used as part of the accreditation process.

GRANTING ACCREDITATION

After SANAS has received evidence that all non-conformances have been addressed, the SANAS Accreditation Committee (AC) reviews all documentation associated with the assessment and advises the CEO on the decision for accreditation.

After an organisation has been accredited for the first time, it is revisited six months after the initial assessment to ensure that the system is fully operational.

Thereafter, regular assessments are scheduled, and accreditation is maintained subject to continued compliance. Within 5 years, there will be a complete reassessment of the organisation.