

Ensuring competence by accredited certification of persons

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The Quality infrastructure QI

Quality as a key driver to success is – inter alia – the result of a well functioning Quality Infrastructure :

Standardization

Metrology

Accreditation

Conformity assessment

When the whole QI functions as it should, the preconditions are created for trust in everyday life as well as societal benefit with more confident citizens, increased competition in the business sector and free trade in goods and services.

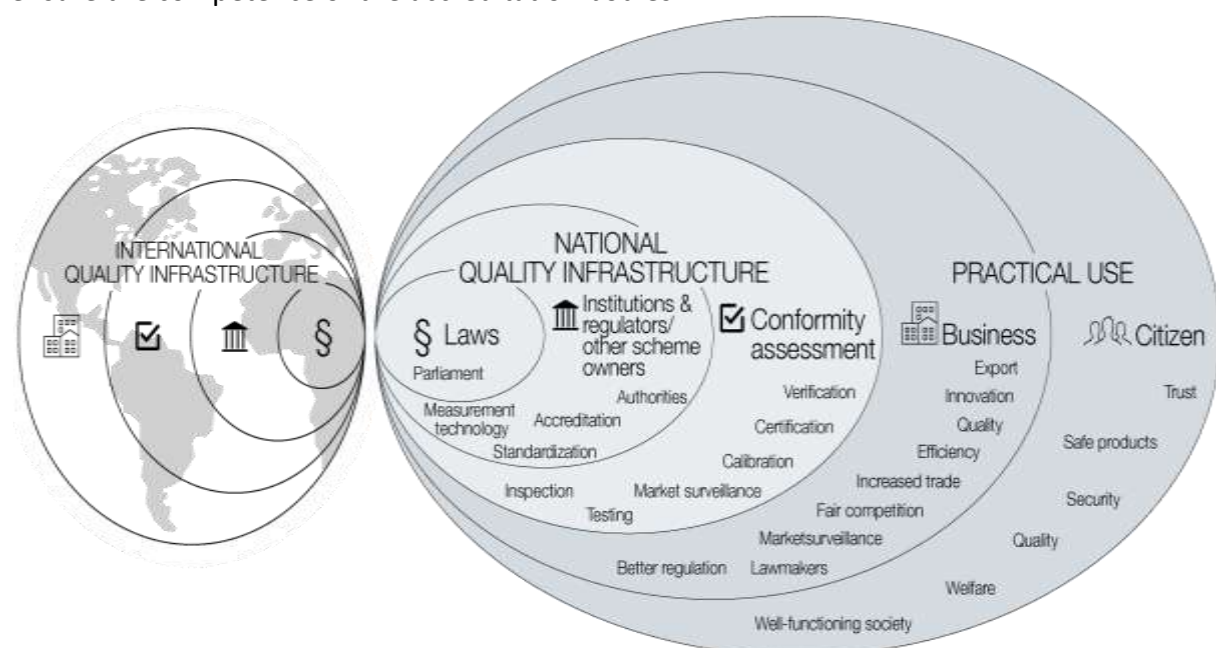
Accreditation and conformity assessment

Accredited conformity assessment is a vital part of the Quality Infrastructure. Conformity assessment has both a geographical and functional dimension. When used effectively, accreditation plays an important role in national-, regional and global trade, contributing to innovation and use of technology and knowledge, and protecting consumers and the environment.

Accreditation is a third-party attestation related to a conformity assessment body conveying formal demonstration of its competence to carry out specific conformity assessment tasks

The national accreditation bodies are integrated in regions and in the global accreditation system represented by IAF (International Accreditation Forum Inc.) and ILAC (International co-operation for laboratory accreditation)

IAF/ILAC is responsible for defining requirements for the harmonized application of the relevant standards and for running a peer evaluation system together with the regions to ensure the competence of the accreditation bodies



To be successful in a competitive world it is essential that the competence on both levels

Organizational competence of the body

Competence of the persons

is ensured and continually improved based on the challenges of the market.

The definition of a certification scheme covering a specific competence forms the basis for the certification of persons.

A certification scheme shall contain the following elements:

- a) scope of certification;
- b) job and task description;
- c) required competence;
- d) abilities (when applicable);
- e) prerequisites (when applicable);
- f) code of conduct (when applicable).

A certification scheme shall include the following certification process requirements:

- a) criteria for initial certification and recertification;
- b) assessment methods for initial certification and recertification;
- c) surveillance methods and criteria (if applicable);
- d) criteria for suspending and withdrawing certification;
- e) criteria for changing the scope or level of certification (if applicable).

Certification for persons is one important means of providing assurance that the certified person meets the requirements of the certification scheme.

Confidence in the respective certification schemes for persons is achieved by means of a globally accepted process of assessment and periodic re-assessments of the competence of certified persons.

The competence, impartiality and independence of certification bodies for persons is assessed and confirmed by accreditation. The assessment is based on ISO/IEC 17024 and the requirements defined by respective certification scheme.

The certification scheme could be provided by independent scheme owners or the certification body.

The schemes are evaluated if they could be used as basis for accreditation, in Europe by the home accreditation body based on EA 1/22 or for international schemes by IAF based on PL 3.

EOQ as a recognized stakeholder of EA participates in the development of the application documents relevant for person certification and has established a certification scheme for auditors which has been positively evaluated by the responsible EA home accreditation body together with other interested EA accreditation bodies.

The competence of accreditation bodies and its harmonized application of the relevant standards, EA, IAF and ILAC application documents and the applicable European legislation – especially regulation 765:2008 EU is ensured by applying a rigorous peer evaluation system which is organized on a worldwide level by IAF and ILAC and by the regions. The EA peer evaluation system is organized by the EA Multilateral Agreement Council – the MAC.

EA and its member accreditation bodies invest significant effort and resource to maintain the integrity and robustness of the EA MLA through the **peer evaluation process**.

The **on-site evaluation** is conducted by a peer evaluation team entrusted with the task to determine accreditation bodies' **compliance with the requirements** laid down in: ISO/IEC 17011 the internationally accepted standard for accreditation bodies; **Regulation EC**

No 765/2008 and the relevant standard for conformity assessment bodies including any additional requirements (e.g. by the EC).

EA Mission

To ensure confidence in accredited conformity assessments results through harmonized operation of accreditation activities in support of European and global economies.

EA.