



Singapore Accreditation Council

*Your Trusted Partner
in Accreditation*



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Role and Function of SAC

The Singapore Accreditation Council is the national authority for accreditation of conformity assessment bodies (CABs) as well as the monitoring authority for Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) in Singapore. The SAC Council consists of a balanced representation of relevant interested parties from the industry, government, academia and CABs. It is supported by five council committees with a pool of over three hundred assessors.

The key roles of SAC are in managing and promoting the various accreditation schemes and registration programme under its umbrella. These include giving recognition

to competent and capable conformity assessment bodies, facilitating partnerships with regulators on accreditation issues and related activities, maintaining and improving the standard of conformity assessment activities in Singapore and establishing an international network for the acceptance of conformity assessment reports and certificates across national borders.

Operating in accordance with relevant international standards and requirements, SAC maintains high standards of integrity and impartiality in its activities, and takes public interest into account. It is also the designated

Singapore representative in regional and international forums on accreditation and related conformity assessment activities.

In addition, SAC works closely with government agencies by facilitating Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs) with regional and international bodies, to boost international trade and commerce for Singapore.

SAC administers the following accreditation schemes and registration programme:

- Accreditation Schemes for Management Systems, Product Certification and Personnel Certification Bodies
- Accreditation Scheme for Laboratories
- Accreditation Scheme for Inspection Bodies
- Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) Compliance Programme

SAC's involvement in regional and international activities

SAC is Singapore's representative in regional and international forums for conformity assessment activities. It participates actively in the activities of the following regional and international bodies on conformity assessment, to ensure Singapore's interests are taken into consideration in policies and decision making, and to facilitate the access of local products and services to overseas markets:

- International Accreditation Forum (IAF)
- Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC)
- International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC)

- Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC)
- ISO Committee for Conformity Assessment (ISO/CASCO)
- ASEAN Consultative Committee on Standards and Quality (ACCSQ)
- OECD Working Group for GLP

Mutual Recognition Arrangements and other collaborations

To help organisations gain access to overseas markets, SAC is a signatory to various accreditation MRAs which cover more than 70 economies. These MRAs play an important role in building confidence of the competency and capability of an international network of accredited CABs. As government bodies and regulators are increasingly relying on reports and certificates from local accredited bodies and overseas bodies accredited by MRA partners, MRAs serve as a global passport for Singapore enterprises. They help companies gain acceptance in overseas markets, while reducing the need for re-testing, re-inspection or re-certification of their products upon entry into importing countries. This reduces unnecessary costs for companies seeking to enter foreign markets, and also gives them international recognition in the eyes of regulators and consumers globally.

SAC maintains MRA status in the following areas:

- APLAC and ILAC MRAs for testing and calibration

- APLAC and ILAC MRAs for inspection
- APLAC MRA for Proficiency Testing Providers
- PAC and IAF MLAs for quality management system and product certification
- PAC MLAs for Food Safety Management System certification

SAC's regional and international collaborations include the signing of a letter of understanding (LOU) for technical cooperation with the Ministry of Development, Brunei Darussalam on 9 April 2001. Under this LOU, Brunei Darussalam recognises SAC as the accreditation body to provide accreditation services for its conformity assessment bodies.

Since January 2010, Singapore became an adherent member of the OECD Mutual Acceptance of Data (MAD) framework. GLP studies conducted in Singapore will now be recognised in more than 30 OECD member and non-member countries.

SAC organises training courses in the following areas:

- Accreditation standards
- Inspection body management
- Internal audit
- Laboratory management
- Measurement of uncertainty
- Medical laboratory management
- Method validation
- GLP implementation

MRA Partners

Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation



For Testing, Calibration, Medical, and proficiency Testing Providers

International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation



For Testing, Calibration and Inspection

International Accreditation Forum



For Quality Management System and Product Certification

Pacific Accreditation Cooperation

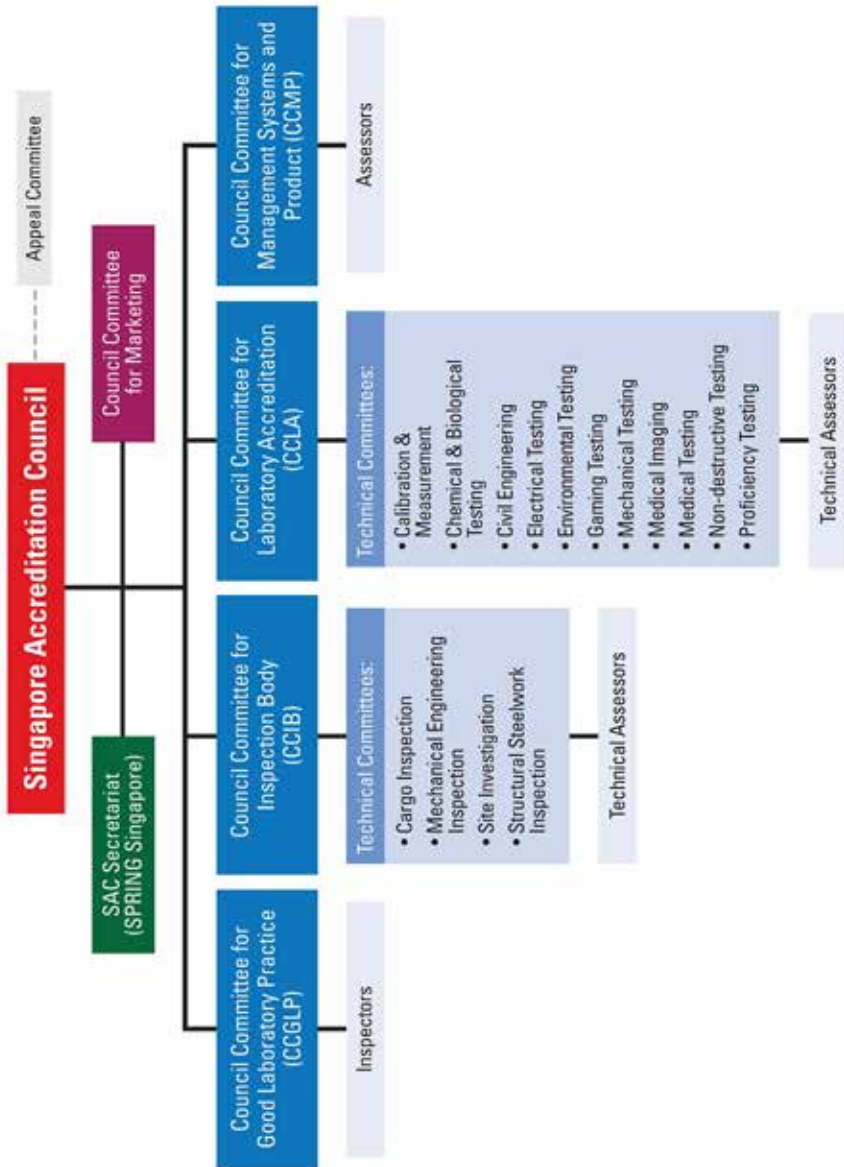


For Quality Management System, Product Certification and Food Safety Management System Certification

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)



For Good Laboratory Practice Compliance Programme





Value of SAC Accreditation

Why choose a SAC accredited conformity assessment body?

SAC's accreditation is an endorsement of the conformity assessment body's competence, credibility, independence and integrity in carrying out testing, inspection, calibration and certification services.

Make an informed choice by choosing a SAC accredited conformity assessment body (CAB). It reduces your risk of selecting and spending money on a less competent CAB. More importantly, it ensures that you do not act on unreliable or inaccurate test results

produced by incompetent bodies.

How can my company benefit from engaging a SAC accredited conformity assessment body?

More companies are beginning to see the benefits of conformity assessment services for their products and services, and their importance as a business tool in today's competitive business climate. They want to assure their customers that their systems, processes, products and services have been thoroughly evaluated by competent CABs and meet the necessary



international standards. Thus, companies often invest a lot of time, money and resources when engaging the services of a CAB.

But how do you ensure that your investments are worthwhile? Engage a SAC accredited CAB for that peace of mind. They have been assessed and accredited by SAC to have the essential expertise, facilities and the appropriate management systems to carry out the evaluation services. They are able to deliver reliable, impartial, valid and accurate data and results, in accordance to international standards, thus opening your door to business opportunities worldwide.

Signature of trust

In today's competitive business environment where companies source for goods and services from all over the world, accreditation is crucial to maintain confidence in reports and certificates issued by CABs.

Therefore by using accredited CABs, your customers will be reassured of the quality and reliability of products and services that you provide. This is especially crucial as customers are becoming more selective and seek reassurance that products or services they purchase conform to specific requirements and fulfil their expectations.



Cut costs

By choosing a SAC accredited CAB, you are assured of accurate testing, calibration and other evaluation services. Cost savings are realised from the removal or reduction of:

- Product failure
- Downtime
- Re-testing
- Re-auditing

Reduced risk

Minimise your procurement risk by taking the guesswork out of choosing a CAB. SAC accreditation gives you the confidence that you will get the service that best fulfils your requirement.

You can also demonstrate due diligence in the event of legal action arising from defective products.

Ticket to global trade

Accreditation helps to minimise technical barriers to trade. Overseas markets will more readily accept the reports of an accredited CAB.

As SAC is a signatory to many regional and international arrangements, this means that products and services that are tested and certified by accredited CABs in Singapore will also be accepted in these signatory countries.



Accreditation Process

Who can apply?

The SAC accreditation schemes are open to all conformity assessment bodies (CABs) such as laboratories, inspection and certification bodies.

How is accreditation done?

Preliminary and initial assessment

Step 1

Applicant submits application and a non-refundable application fee, along with relevant

documents such as the quality manual and procedures.

Step 2

The secretariat reviews the documents to ensure that they satisfy the requirements before liaising with the applicant to arrange for a site assessment.

Step 3

The assessment team conducts onsite assessment as well as witness onsite

demonstration of audit/testing/calibration/ inspection activities.

Step 4

Applicant rectifies any non-conformity issues raised and submits the corrective actions to the secretariat within the specified timeframe.

Step 5

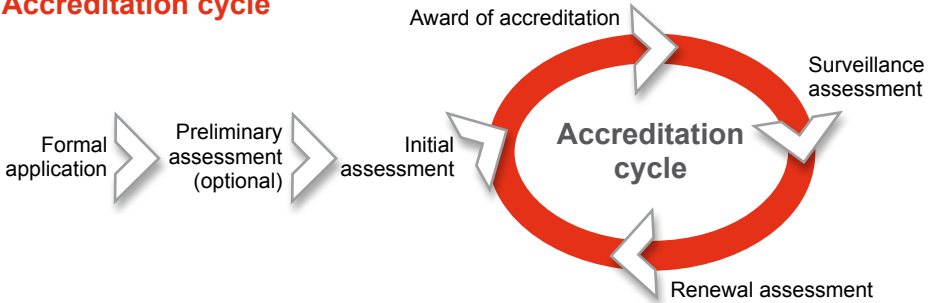
The applicant will be informed of whether they are granted accreditation and a Certificate of

Accreditation will be issued to the successful applicant.

Routine annual surveillance and re-assessment

Routine annual surveillance is conducted after the award of accreditation to ensure continual compliance with accreditation requirements. In addition, a full re-assessment will be conducted for the renewal of accreditation.

Accreditation cycle





How Do You Identify a SAC Accredited Conformity Assessment Body?

Identifying a SAC accredited conformity assessment body

You can identify a SAC accredited conformity assessment body (CAB) by one of the SAC accreditation marks as proof of accreditation. Endorsed reports or accredited certificates carry the SAC mark, along with the accreditation number.

In addition, an endorsed test or inspection report will include the following statement:

“The results reported herein have been performed in accordance with the terms of accreditation under the Singapore Accreditation Council”

Upon receiving an endorsed report or accredited certificate, you can be assured that:

- The competence of the service providers has been thoroughly reviewed and assessed by SAC.
- The report will be recognised by SAC's Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) partners, leading to greater market access.

Furthermore, as SAC is a signatory member of ILAC and IAF MRAs, accredited CABs can also use the ILAC and IAF MRA mark in their reports and certificates to demonstrate that they are accredited by a signatory member of the ILAC or IAF arrangements and hence gain wider acceptance in the global market.

Scope

Accreditation is granted for a specific scope of activities and not for all activities undertaken by the CABs. Thus, accredited CABs are only allowed to issue endorsed reports for those tests, calibrations or inspections, or issue accredited certificates for the specific certification scopes which they have been accredited.

SAC Accreditation Marks



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The SAC Programme is managed by SPRING Singapore