



+ Integrity

+ Confidence

+ Quality

NiNAS

Nigeria National Accreditation Service



Funded by the
European Union



Implemented
by UNIDO

Introduction

For economic development it is essential to have a National Quality Infrastructure in place consistent with international principles.

Quality infrastructure implies having reliable Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs). But who assures the reliability and competency of the CABs? Accreditation is the most adequate mechanism for that.

Accreditation stands for trust, safety and new business opportunities. In sum, accreditation means benefits for manufacturers, exporters, end consumers, regulators and for the society as a whole!



Accreditation

Some laws and most export terms require that certain products and services be evaluated for safety and health reasons.

Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) are the organizations in charge of evaluating whether goods and services are compliant with the norms. For instance, a testing laboratory analyzes a food product; a calibration laboratory ensures lab measurements are accurate; a medical laboratory analyzes a blood sample before surgery.

But... can we trust the information provided by a CAB? Do we know whether the CAB is competent enough to perform those evaluations? The accreditation bodies are in charge of evaluating the CABs to confirm whether they are competent.

Accreditation is a process. The result is the assessment of whether the CAB is reliable, competent and impartial and whether it fulfills the necessary standards.

In short, accreditation is an assurance that the work done by laboratories, certification bodies and other types of CABs, is reliable.

Accreditation is not...

Accreditation is not a quality certificate.
Accreditation is not an export certificate.
Accreditation is not having quality management certification (ISO 9001).

Accreditation is...

Accreditation is recognition of the CAB's competency.

Accreditation does not mean the CAB is technically competent to do everything.
Accreditation does not guarantee each and every measurement/test/certification/inspection made by the CAB.

Accreditation is granted for specific assessment activities. Users of CABs services should check the CABs' Scope of Accreditation.

Accredited once does not mean that CABs are competent forever to perform their tasks.

Accreditation needs to be renewed periodically.

Products and services are not accredited.
Businesses (e.g. manufacturers, exporters, etc.) are not accredited.

Only CABs are accredited.

CAB = Conformity Assessment Body, e.g. laboratory, certification body, inspection body...

NiNAS

The Nigeria National Accreditation Service (NiNAS) was registered on October 14, 2015 by the Corporate Affairs Commission of Nigeria, under the Incorporation of Trustee Companies and Allied Matters Act 1, 1990 Part C.

For all CABs in Nigeria and in the West Africa region, NiNAS is the Nigerian national accreditation body that provides credible and cost-effective accreditation services with international recognition.

NiNAS is governed by a Board of Directors, which comprises various interest groups in overseeing a robust accreditation system. The Board of Directors oversees the conduct of NiNAS, watches over the finances and provides guidance.

The CEO reports to the Board of Directors and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of NiNAS. Reporting to the CEO are the Directors of Accreditation, who are responsible for the overall management of the accreditation programs.

Services offered by NiNAS

NiNAS provides a variety of accreditation services to Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs), in accordance with standards published by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

In the first implementation phase, NiNAS will offer **accreditation services to testing and calibration laboratories** and assess whether they are technically competent, impartial and capable of performing their tasks in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025.



The value of NiNAS accreditation

Promoting competitiveness

NiNAS accreditation means that the tests, the certifications and the inspections are recognized at international level, and that reinforces the competitiveness of our companies.

Fostering trade

NiNAS accreditation means that the reports and certificates accompanying exported goods are more readily accepted internationally. This cuts out duplicate testing procedures on each side of the border, reducing costs and saving transit time.

Promoting health and safety

NiNAS accreditation means living up to the highest standards. Any quality issues will usually be detected before the goods and services reach the market, hence protecting the health and safety of the consumers.

Protecting the environment

NiNAS accreditation means many products and services of good quality that respect the environment and result in better sustainability.



NiNAS

Vision

To be a national and regional leader in the delivery of accreditation services to a global standard.

Mission

To attest the competence and impartiality of CABs according to international standards, in order to monitor and improve the quality and reliability of their outputs, thus promoting competitiveness, trade, health, safety and protection of the environment.

Values

Impartiality, Integrity,
Confidentiality, Excellence,
Innovation, Customer focus.



Why do we need international accreditation in Nigeria?

Nigeria has a large number of CABs that test, calibrate or certify products, services and systems (e.g. SON, NAFDAC). However, before NiNAS, there was no accreditation body in Nigeria to assess the competency of these CABs to international standards.

Not undergoing the process of accreditation to international standards is a source of quality issues that hinders exports, e.g.:

- » Rejection of consignments due to product failures not found in testing.
- » Retesting of products due to inaccurate measurement caused by poorly or non-calibrated equipment.
- » Rejection of orders because of inability to support products claims with an internationally recognized accreditation certificate or test report.
- » Without NiNAS, international accreditation is only available from abroad and therefore only affordable to a few.

Why choosing NiNAS?

There are two reasons that make NiNAS the accreditation body of choice for CABs in Nigeria and in the West African region:

1. NiNAS is a Nigerian entity. This makes NiNAS more **accessible** and **cost-effective** than overseas accreditation bodies.
2. NiNAS will hold **international recognition**. This will increase the marketability of Nigerian and West African goods and services. The businesses and the exporters who use CABs accredited by NiNAS will be able to compete more easily in international markets thanks to the system of international mutual recognition agreements.



Benefits of NiNAS accreditation

NiNAS accreditation has many benefits for society.

Benefits for Conformity Assessment Bodies

Why should you have your lab accredited by NiNAS?

- » You will attract more customers through added confidence.
- » Your customers will appreciate it: your results will be accepted abroad and your customers will save time and money for retesting.
- » Your organization will benefit: higher productivity, better results, and increased employee satisfaction.

Benefits for manufacturers and exporters

Is your own lab or are the labs that you use accredited by NiNAS? By using NiNAS-accredited labs, you will benefit from:

- » More revenues: better acceptance of your goods overseas will enhance your customers' confidence. This means international recognition and a better reputation.
- » Lower costs: no need for products to be retested / recertified / re-inspected in another country, avoiding costly rework and rejections of entire consignments.
- » Fewer risks: peace of mind when you chose a NiNAS-accredited lab.

Benefits for final consumers

Why should you only buy or use products and services that have been evaluated by a NiNAS-accredited CAB?

- » You can trust that your products and services have been checked against the highest possible quality standards.
- » You can have greater confidence that your products and services are healthy and safe.

Benefits for the regulator

What are NiNAS' benefits for a country?

- » Greater assurance of meeting the obligations under world trading agreements e.g. compliance with the Trade Facilitation, Technical Barriers to Trade and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreements.
- » Possibility to make informed decisions based on the confidence in data generated by accredited CABs.
- » Public trust. NiNAS will identify organizations that meet and maintain high standards.
- » Assistance to meet your domestic regulatory objectives for health and safety.

Accreditation process

In order to achieve accreditation, CABs must demonstrate that they have the necessary competence to perform specified tasks.

NiNAS will perform the assessments of the CABs by reviewing documents and performing audits onsite.



A team of technical assessors will be appointed for each project. They will conduct a thorough evaluation of all factors in the CAB that affect the outcome of the CAB's assessments, e.g.:

- » technical competence of staff (qualifications, training, experience)
- » appropriateness of assessment methods
- » the use of suitable equipment
- » safeguards to ensure impartiality and confidentiality
- » code of conduct and processes for working safely

- » effective quality assurance procedures, etc.

Accreditation is granted when the CAB demonstrates that it fully meets the requirements of the relevant standards.

Once accredited, a CAB must be reassessed regularly to ensure continued compliance with requirements, and to check that it maintains the required standard of operation.

Accreditation certificate

The accreditation itself is a document (a certificate of accreditation) that recognizes that the CAB is competent, reliable and compliant with relevant standards.

Accredited CABs will be recognized with this symbol:





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