



MAURITAS A32

Competence requirement of MAURITAS
Assessors/Technical Experts for Product
Certification accreditation scheme

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Foreword

The MAURITIUS ACCREDITATION SERVICE (MAURITAS) is a governmental body established in 1998 to provide a national, unified service for the accreditation of Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) such as calibration/testing laboratories, certification bodies and inspection bodies. Organizations that comply with the MAURITAS requirements are granted accreditation by MAURITAS.

About MAURITAS publications

MAURITAS publications are categorized as follows:

- R series Publications containing general policy and requirements related to MAURITAS accreditation.
- G series Publications providing guidance on MAURITAS requirements.
- A series Publications related to assessment procedures.
- P series MAURITAS quality system procedures
- F series MAURITAS Forms
- Directories Classified listing of accredited organizations.

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Competence requirement of MAURITAS Assessors/Technical Experts for Product Certification accreditation scheme

1. Purpose

1.1 This document defines the competence criteria for MAURITAS Technical Experts and Assessors involved in the accreditation of Product Certification Bodies (PCBs), in line with ISO/IEC 17011 and ISO/IEC 17065. It ensures consistent and harmonized competence determination across technical areas relevant to product certification. This document is to be used together with MAURITAS A2 and A3 procedure.

2 Scope and Responsibilities

2.1 It is the responsibility of MAURITAS to make use of this document when demonstrating the competence of MAURITAS PCB Assessors and Technical Experts through interviews, personal interaction and/or during on site evaluations.

3. References

The following documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of the MAURITAS accreditation system. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. For undated MAURITAS references, the latest edition of the document referred to applies. MAURITAS maintains a register, of the current valid MAURITAS accreditation documents.

3.1 MAURITAS A series documents

3.2 MAURITAS G series documents

3.3 ISO/IEC 17011 : Conformity assessment – General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies

3.4 ISO/IEC 17065 : Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes, and services

3.5 ISO/IEC 17067 : Fundamentals of product certification and guidelines for product certification schemes

4 Definitions

4.1 Assessor

An assessor is a person assigned by MAURITAS to perform, alone or as part of an assessment team, an assessment of a CAB. He/she may perform individual assessments of limited and technical scope based on acceptance from the Director.

4.2 Technical expert (TE)

A technical expert is a person assigned by MAURITAS, working under the responsibility of an assessor, who provides specific knowledge or expertise with respect to the scope of accreditation to be assessed and does not assess independently. However, a Technical Expert can work in an area alone if an Assessor/Team Leader is available and periodically checking and communicating with the Technical Expert (this includes also keeping in touch via email or telephone or a mobile application).

5 Process for determining the competence of Product Certification Body Assessors and Technical Experts

5.1 MAURITAS shall make use of Product Certification Body Assessors or other personnel (e.g. Technical Experts and MAURITAS Staff) with competence to perform the witnessing of product certification evaluation activities to demonstrate compliance related to:

- Accreditation
- Planning and Scheduling
- Document Review
- On-Site Assessment
- Reporting Activities

5.2 MAURITAS shall qualify Technical Experts based on qualifications and sector work experience. Additional competencies will be required in case it is a requirement for the product certification scheme. Examples:

If the product certification scheme does not cover Organic claims, the Assessor/Technical Expert will not be required to have additional competency for organic food.

A scheme only certifying packaging materials for food (but not the food itself) would not require deep knowledge of food hygiene or CODEX.

The additional competency can be determined through work experience or through interviews.

In scarcity areas, MAURITAS may qualify Technical Expert(s) from academic institutions, based on their knowledge in the relevant Scope of Activities. MAURITAS will consider these scarcity areas and agree on the witnessing team competence with the approval of the Director.

In all cases, records will be kept in the resource review form, **F 1.09**.

The minimum qualification for Assessors or Technical Experts shall be a Degree and a minimum of 3 years work experience in one or more relevant sectors as described in the table below.

Competent Technical Experts shall be qualified as Technical Assessors by MAURITAS on the basis of demonstrated knowledge of:

- Performing or coordinating assessments;
- Interpreting the accreditation standard;
- Having a knowledge of the administrative procedures of the accreditation body; and
- Having a knowledge of the main policies of the accreditation body.

5.3 Where any assessment is carried out by a team, the level of competence required should be held within the team as a whole and not by each individual member of the team. MAURITAS shall maintain records for selecting, training and monitoring of Assessors' and Technical Experts' competencies in the individual Assessor/Technical Expert file.

6 Competence Criteria for Assessors/Technical Experts for witnessing of Product Certification audits

IAF Scope	Sector Description	Minimum Education	Sector Work Experience	Additional competency in line with scheme
1	Agriculture and Fishing	BSc in Agriculture, Biology, Marine Sciences Aquaculture or equivalent	Experience in agriculture production and aquaculture	Good Agricultural Practices, sustainable agriculture and/or organic farming, regulatory knowledge, CODEX alimentarius, relevant regulatory knowledge.
3	Food Products & Beverages	BSc in Food Tech, Microbiology or equivalent	Experience in food and beverage industry	Food hygiene, organic food products and beverages, regulatory compliance and CODEX Alimentarius, relevant regulatory knowledge.
4	Textiles and Textile Products	BSc in Textile Technology, Chemistry or equivalent	Experience in textile industry	Material specifications, organic textiles, dye chemistry, Relevant textile standards, regulatory knowledge.
12	Chemicals	BSc in Chemistry/Chemical Engineering or equivalent	Experience in chemical production	Chemical safety and associated risks, relevant regulatory knowledge.
14	Rubber and Plastic Products	BSc in Polymer Science/Engineering or equivalent	Experience in rubber/plastics	Mechanical properties of rubber and plastic and their processing, relevant regulatory knowledge.
16	Concrete, Cement, Lime, Gypsum	BSc in Civil/Material Engineering or equivalent	Experience in construction materials	Relevant civil engineering standards, compressive strength, curing, batching, relevant regulatory knowledge.
17	Basic Metals	BSc in Metallurgy/Mechanical Engineering or equivalent	Experience in metal production	Tensile testing, heat treatment, metallurgy, relevant regulatory knowledge.
18	Machinery and Equipment	BSc in Mechanical Engineering or equivalent	Experience in mechanical laboratory or machine design/testing	Design and validation, relevant regulatory knowledge
19	Electrical Equipment	BSc in Electrical Engineering or equivalent	Experience in electrical design/testing	Electromagnetic compatibility, safety testing, relevant regulatory knowledge
30	Optical/Electronic Equipment	BSc in Electronics/Physics or equivalent	Experience in electronics laboratory or manufacturing	Electromagnetic compatibility, optical safety, relevant regulatory knowledge

Appendix A: Amendment Table

SN	Section	Amendment