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# MAURITAS

# R4

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Conditions for the Use of MAURITAS  
accreditation symbol

**Mauritius Accreditation Service**

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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 and are entitled to use the MAURITAS Accreditation symbol.

## 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.

Mauritius Accreditation Service (MAURITAS)  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Crescent House,  
Corner Deschartes and Foucault Streets  
Port Louis  
Mauritius  
Tel: +230 208 16 90  
Fax: +230 210 61 01  
Email: [mauritas@govmu.org](mailto:mauritas@govmu.org)  
Website: [www.mauritas.org](http://www.mauritas.org)

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# Conditions for the Use of MAURITAS accreditation symbol

## 1. Introduction

MAURITAS is the national body that is responsible for providing accreditation services to conformity assessment bodies, e.g laboratories, certification bodies and inspection bodies. MAURITAS is a department under the Ministry responsible for the subject of Industry and operates under the Mauritius Accreditation Service Act 1998.

## 2. Objective

**2.1** The objective of this publication is to set out the conditions to control the use of the accreditation symbol of MAURITAS. Organisations accredited by MAURITAS may use the MAURITAS accreditation symbol to demonstrate to a third party, the recognition of their competence and compliance to the requirements of the appropriate international standards:

ISO/IEC 17025 for laboratories (hereinafter referred to as MAURITAS accredited laboratories)

ISO 15189 for medical testing laboratories (hereinafter referred to as MAURITAS accredited laboratories)

ISO/IEC 17065 for Certification bodies performing product certification (hereinafter referred to as MAURITAS accredited certification bodies). The Certification body accreditation symbol may also be used by organisations subject to accredited certification by a MAURITAS accredited certification body.

ISO/IEC 17021 for Certification Bodies performing management system certification (hereinafter referred to as MAURITAS accredited certification bodies). The Certification body accreditation symbol may also be used by organisations subject to accredited certification by a MAURITAS accredited certification body.

ISO/IEC 17024 for Certification Bodies performing certification of persons (hereinafter referred to as MAURITAS accredited certification bodies).

ISO/IEC 17020 for inspection bodies (hereinafter referred to as MAURITAS accredited inspection bodies)

**2.2** Where applicable, these conditions shall be met by all MAURITAS accredited CABs, including those outside Mauritius. Certification bodies shall take all steps to ensure compliance with these conditions by their client of accredited certification. MAURITAS accredited laboratories shall not authorise the use of the symbols by their clients, subcontractors or any other third party.

**2.3** In this document 'symbol' means one of the MAURITAS accreditation symbols as described in subclause 4.1 below.

### **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 if the document referred to, applies. MAURITAS maintains a register of the current valid MAURITAS accreditation documents.

**3.1 ISO/IEC 17011, Conformity Assessment-General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies**

**3.2 ILAC-P8, ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (Arrangement): Supplementary Requirements and Guidelines for the Use of Accreditation Symbols and for Claims of Accreditation Status by Accredited Laboratories and Inspection Bodies**

### **4. General Rules**

#### **4.1 MAURITAS accreditation symbols**

**4.1.1** MAURITAS has more than one symbol for each of its accreditation programme, and it uses these to communicate to stakeholders which service has been accredited (e.g. “Testing”, “Calibration”, etc.). The accreditation symbols of MAURITAS are shown in Annex A.

#### **4.2 Use of the accreditation symbols**

**4.2.1** The organisations accredited by MAURITAS may use the relevant accreditation symbol on documents directly related to an accredited service, subject to the conditions set out in this publication. MAURITAS is at all times authorised to have the use of the accreditation symbols checked.

**4.2.2** The organisations accredited by MAURITAS shall not use the MAURITAS accredited symbols in any way which might mislead their client/public as to the extent and limitations of their MAURITAS accreditation.

#### **4.3 Reproduction and display of symbols**

**4.3.1** The symbols shall be in the form specified in Annex A and shall be displayed in the appropriate form, size and colour as specified in the master versions.

**4.3.2** The font used by MAURITAS Staff for writing the accreditation programme and the accreditation number(s) under the accreditation symbol shall be ‘Arial of size 36’ and of character ‘bold’.

**4.3.3** The organisation's accreditation number(s) shall be printed under the accreditation symbol in three digits. Any enlargements or reductions shall retain the same proportions as those of the master versions printed in Annex A.

**4.3.4** The MAURITAS accreditation symbol shall be reproduced in its original colour (pantone 299) by accredited organisations on master versions in the layout and typography which is printed and issued in this publication.

**4.3.5** The MAURITAS accreditation symbol shall only be displayed on stationery if the symbol or title of the accredited organisations is also used. The accreditation symbol shall not be more prominent than the symbol or title of the accredited body. Other use of the accreditation symbol is not permitted unless written consent is given by the Director of MAURITAS.

**4.3.6** Embossed, relief or die-stamped versions may be used.

**4.3.7** Electronic reproduction of the symbols is permitted by MAURITAS provided that the requirements of these regulations are met. The organisation's accreditation number (s) shall be printed under the symbol as indicated in Annex A.

## **5. Rules for use by accredited CABs**

### **5.1 Rights to use**

Only organisations accredited by MAURITAS are entitled to display the MAURITAS accreditation symbols or make reference to their MAURITAS accreditation on stationeries including letterheads, quotations for calibrations or testing, reports, certificates and brochures and other items relevant to the organisation's accredited activity, subject to the rules set out in this publication. The MAURITAS accreditation symbol shall be displayed no more than once on each letterhead.

When an accredited organisation wishes to make reference to its MAURITAS accreditation instead of using the symbol, it shall without variation use the phrase "a MAURITAS – accredited (calibration laboratory), (testing laboratory), (certification body), (inspection body)" followed by the organisation's accreditation number. The accredited body shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that this wording is used by any client when referring to the use of an accredited body.

#### **5.1.1 Suspension of accreditation**

Upon suspension of relevant MAURITAS accreditation, accredited organisations shall immediately cease the use of accreditation and stop the issue of certificates, reports or quotations for work displaying the MAURITAS symbol or full-text reference to accreditation.

#### **5.1.2 Termination of accreditation**

Upon termination of MAURITAS accreditation, the accredited organisation shall immediately cease the use of accreditation and stop distribution of all documents bearing the MAURITAS symbol or full text reference to accreditation. Upon termination of relevant MAURITAS accreditation, the accredited body in respect of a scheme whereby the body owns and licences its own mark the latter shall take all steps to ensure that its customers immediately cease use of stationery, literature advertisements of goods, labels and packages bearing the MAURITAS accreditation symbol.

#### **5.1.3 Non-accredited activities**

Accredited organisations shall not claim or associate accreditation for non-accredited activities in particular:

- when a body has a network of sites among which at least one has not been granted accreditation. When a common document with the symbol is issued, a disclaimer printed close to the symbol shall state for instance: "List of accredited sites and scopes is available on request".
- when a subsidiary or more belonging to a group have been accredited there shall not be any confusion as to which part of the group holds accreditation. When a common document with the symbol is to be issued, the list of MAURITAS accredited subsidiaries shall be included in the common document. Otherwise, the use of the symbol shall be restricted to the MAURITAS accredited subsidiaries only.
- when all parameters/inspections included in the test reports/certificates are not accredited.

#### 5.1.4 Technical Signatories

The MAURITAS Laboratory Accreditation Programme for non-medical testing laboratories and Inspection Body Accreditation Programme provide for the assessment of Technical personnel to act as Technical Signatories and hence be approved to sign reports/certificates bearing the MAURITAS accreditation symbol.

The accredited laboratory/inspection body shall use the Technical Signatories for signing reports/certificates for parameters/inspections for which they have been approved as detailed in the schedule of the scope of accreditation of the laboratory/inspection body.

Technical Signatories who have been on leave from an accredited laboratory/inspection body for a period of more than one year shall no longer be considered as Technical Signatories. They shall re-apply to become Technical Signatory and be re-assessed by MAURITAS before being allowed to sign reports/certificates bearing the MAURITAS accreditation symbol.

A Technical Signatory of an accredited laboratory/inspection body who no longer works for the latter shall not be considered as Technical Signatory for that particular accredited laboratory/inspection body and his/her name shall be immediately removed from the schedule of accreditation.

The accredited laboratory/inspection body shall not make use of the MAURITAS accreditation symbol or refer to accreditation status when the report/certificate is not signed by the Technical Signatory.

#### 5.1.5 Subcontracted tests/calibrations or inspections

Accredited laboratories/inspection bodies who subcontract their tests/calibrations/inspections may include the results of same in its MAURITAS endorsed reports/certificates subject to the following conditions:

- the accredited laboratory or inspection body takes full responsibility for the subcontracted tests, calibrations or inspections and, has informed the customer of the proposed subcontracting and, where appropriate, has obtained his/her prior approval
- approval has been obtained from the subcontractor to report excerpts from the subcontractor's report or certificate
- the subcontractor is itself accredited for the specific tests, calibrations or inspections concerned and the results have been included in the subcontractor laboratory's or inspection body's endorsed report or certificate.

In the event that the subcontractor is not accredited by MAURITAS, the conditions referred in the previous paragraph will apply if the subcontractor is accredited by a signatory to the ILAC International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation Mutual Recognition Arrangement (ILAC MRA signatory). The accreditation symbol of the accreditation body accrediting the subcontractor shall not be used by the subcontracting laboratory or inspection body on the endorsed reports or certificates.

MAURITAS accredited laboratories/inspection bodies may include results from non-accredited subcontractors as long as they abide to the requirements set out at section 5.2.2.

MAURITAS accredited laboratories/inspection bodies shall not make use of accreditation symbols in test reports/certificates in the case where all subcontracted parameters/inspections in the test reports/certificates were done by non-accredited laboratory/inspection body.

#### 5.1.6 Opinions and Interpretations

MAURITAS allows its accredited laboratories to include a statement of interpretation of results only in the case of parameters in the scope of accreditation. This statement shall be made by a Technical Signatory.

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## 5.2 Documents and promotional media

### 5.2.1 Publicity material

CABs accredited by MAURITAS may incorporate the MAURITAS accreditation symbol in publicity material that refers to accredited services, provided that the conditions contained in these regulations are met.

The terms 'publicity material' shall not include notices, labels, documents or written announcements affixed to or otherwise appearing on goods or products unless the goods or products have been manufactured under an accredited product conformity scheme.

Approval for the use of the MAURITAS accreditation symbol or any reference to MAURITAS accreditation in publicity material relating to a product must be obtained from the Director of MAURITAS. In this context, accredited organisations shall be permitted to display the MAURITAS accreditation symbol except in publicity material containing an accreditation symbol as part of a larger advertisement, provided the symbol is used in the publicity of materials in accordance with conditions detailed in this publication. The accreditation symbol may be displayed on buildings, internal walls and doors, exhibition stands and flags. The accreditation symbol shall not be displayed on vehicles.

### 5.2.2 Use of disclaimers for non-accredited activity

Accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) shall clearly indicate their policy on demarcation of accredited/non-accredited parameters in their quality documentation.

Accredited CABs issuing reports/certificates shall indicate which tests/calibrations/inspections/scope sectors are accredited and those that are not accredited by either **Option A** or **Option B** as elaborated below:

#### **Option A:**

- (a) Wherever non-accredited tests/calibrations/inspections appear, they shall either be marked "Not MAURITAS accredited" or clearly and unambiguously marked by an asterisk (\*) and
- (b) The tests/calibrations/inspections report/certificate contains the following disclaimer as appropriate:

**"Tests/inspections/Scope sectors marked "Not MAURITAS accredited" or "\*" in this report/certificate are not included in the MAURITAS Accreditation Schedule for our laboratory/inspection body/certification body"**

#### **Option B:**

- (a) Wherever accredited tests/calibrations/inspections/scope sectors appear, they shall either be marked "MAURITAS accredited" or clearly and unambiguously marked by a hash (#) and
- (b) The tests/calibrations/inspections report/certificate contains the following disclaimer as appropriate:

**"Tests/inspections/scope sectors marked "MAURITAS accredited" or "#" in this report/certificate are included in the MAURITAS Accreditation Schedule for our laboratory/inspection body/certification body"**

Letters printed on letterhead bearing the MAURITAS accreditation symbol shall only be issued when the conditions of the above paragraph are fulfilled.

When an accredited CAB issues a tests/inspection report/certificate incorporating a MAURITAS accreditation symbol or reference to the MAURITAS accreditation and any of the above disclaimers, the disclaimers shall be included on the front cover or first page of each tests/inspection report/certificate or wherever the symbol or reference to accreditation occurs.

All quotations for work that contain an accreditation symbol shall clearly indicate those activities that are not MAURITAS-accredited.



Accredited CABs shall not be allowed to use the MAURITAS accreditation symbol or make full-text reference to accreditation on business cards held by the accredited CAB's staff.

### **5.2.3 Non-accredited test or calibration reports/inspection reports/certificates**

Accredited CABs shall not be allowed to make use of MAURITAS accreditation symbols and any associated publicity materials if the test or calibration reports/inspection reports/certificates do not contain any MAURITAS accredited tests/calibrations/inspections/scope sectors.

## **5.3 Reports and certificates**

### **5.3.1 General**

The MAURITAS accreditation symbols shall not be used in such a way as to state, imply or suggest that MAURITAS accepts the responsibility and liability for the accuracy of test, inspection, calibration results or certification decisions covered by accreditation.

The accreditation symbols shall not be used in such a way to give impression that the Ministry responsible for Industry or MAURITAS has certified or approved any product, process, system, person or any service supplied by a holder of an accreditation certificate or in any other misleading manner.

### **5.3.2 Calibration and testing laboratories**

Accreditation symbols other than for Testing and Calibration may not be used on test and calibration reports and certificates, respectively.

The Calibration or Testing accreditation symbols shall not be displayed on an item that has been tested, or on a product (or attachment thereto) or used to imply product certification or approval.

A laboratory is likely to issue reports incorporating the symbols and containing opinions, interpretations or other material related to investigational activities. When such statements are outside the scope of accreditation, the report or certificate issued by the accredited laboratory shall include a disclaimer close to the symbol or to the expression of opinion such as "The opinions/interpretations expressed in this report or certificate are outside the scope of this accredited laboratory".

A calibration laboratory normally issues calibration labels which are affixed to equipment that have been calibrated. MAURITAS allows the use of calibration labels containing its accreditation symbol in such a way that it does not give the impression that MAURITAS has calibrated the equipment. Calibration labels containing the MAURITAS accreditation symbol shall only be affixed to equipment that have been calibrated using calibration methods covered by the scope of accreditation.

### **5.3.3 Certification and Inspection Bodies**

Accredited certification bodies shall ensure that they audit the use of the MAURITAS accreditation symbol by their certificate holders. Holder of certificates issued by MAURITAS accredited certification bodies may use the appropriate accreditation symbol in the manner prescribed in Annex B, on stationery and publicity material or other items relevant to their certificate. The accreditation symbol shall always be used in conjunction with the mark of the certification body or certification scheme.

In those cases where a certification body has been accredited by more than one accreditation body, the certificate may bear one accreditation symbol or more, as appropriate to suit market needs.

The Product Certification symbol may only be used in connection with a product manufactured under product conformity scheme.

The Inspection symbol shall not be displayed on an item that has been inspected, or on a product (or attachment thereto) or used to imply product certification or approval.

## **6. Users of accredited services**

### **6.1 Users of accredited management system certification**

Use of the MAURITAS accreditation symbol shall be strictly limited to the activity certified by the certification body under its accreditation. The symbol shall be displayed only in combination with the certification body's mark/logo.

When a certification body accredited by MAURITAS certifies a laboratory's management system, the certification body shall not enable the laboratory to use its mark/logo on testing/inspection reports or calibration certificates as such reports/certificates are considered as products in this context.

### **6.2 Users of accredited product certification**

The MAURITAS accreditation symbol may be used by holders of accredited certificates on product with the consent of the Director of MAURITAS.

The symbol shall be affixed on the product itself or on its related packaging and must be in combination with the certification body's mark/logo.

### **6.3 Users of an accredited laboratory's services**

Accredited laboratories shall ensure that users of an accredited laboratory's services do not reproduce the laboratory accreditation symbols on their letterheads, faxes and promotional materials.

## **7. Misuse**

**7.1** Any CAB or person using the MAURITAS accreditation symbols or making reference to MAURITAS accreditation in other ways than that mentioned in the conditions of this publication shall be considered as misuse and MAURITAS reserves the right to take appropriate legal actions as it may be advised.

**7.2** Any CAB or person making any statement or representation, whether in writing or not, with reference to any conformity assessment activity which conveys or is likely to convey the impression that the conformity assessment activity is covered by the accreditation certificate whereas it is not so covered shall be liable to legal action.

ANNEX A



ANNEX B



