



## **Purpose**

The purpose of this document is to describe the PNAC policy for the implementation of the requirements of ILAC Cross Frontier Accreditation – *Principles for Avoiding Duplication* (ILAC G21: 09/2012) and IAF Guidance on Cross Frontier Accreditation, Issue 1, Version 3 (IAF GD 3:2003) for Conformity assessment Bodies (CABs) including laboratories, certification bodies and inspection bodies.

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## **1.0 Introduction**

Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC) is an autonomous body working under the Ministry of Science and Technology. PNAC has the authority to accredit calibration laboratories testing laboratories, certification bodies, and inspection bodies. Further on, PNAC will extend its functions to other fields of accreditation.

This document gives an overview of the PNAC policy on Cross Frontier Accreditation. This approach will serve to strengthen the international network of laboratory accreditation bodies provided through ILAC and accreditation of certification bodies provided through IAF.

This in turn will assist the WTO/TBT objective of facilitating international trade by removing technical barriers to trade through mutual recognition between the nationally based conformity assessment systems.

Further information may be inquired from:

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## **2.0 Policy:**

2.1 PNAC may accept application for accreditation from a foreign CAB in following cases:

- The local accreditation body/bodies do(es) not offer the required scope.
- The local accreditation body/bodies is/are not signatory/signatories to the ILAC/IAF Arrangement.
- There is no local accreditation body.
- Its clients demand a specific accreditation and will not be persuaded to accept an equivalent
- It is part of a chain of CABs with a single owner who wants all the CABs to have the same accreditation and who is not willing to work with the ILAC/IAF Arrangement partners.

2.2 If there is ILAC/IAF Arrangement signatory/signatories covering the scope of the required accreditation in the country or economy of the applicant, the PNAC should:

- Enquire whether the applicant is aware of the local accreditation body/bodies,
- Suggest that the accreditation could be more economically performed by a local body,
- Point out the equivalence of the local accreditation demonstrated through the ILAC/IAF Arrangement.

2.3 Only if the applicant still persists in requiring its accreditation should it proceed, in which case it should request the applicant to be allowed to inform the local accreditation body/bodies that it will be undertaking the work, to explain the circumstances, and to invite any relevant local accreditation body to be an observer at the assessment. It may also suggest that a joint accreditation be offered by it and a local accreditation body.

2.4 If there is an ILAC/IAF member accreditation body/bodies in the country or economy of the applicant that is not an ILAC/IAF signatory for the scope, it should enquire whether the applicant would be prepared to have any relevant local accreditation body informed of the application with the option of

- Observing the assessment for experience
- Providing a team member or members to the accreditation body's assessment team,  
or



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- Performing a joint assessment with the objective of dual accreditation.

2.5 In all these cases, the objective of eventual handover of the accreditation to the relevant local accreditation body should be borne in mind, either when that body joins the ILAC Arrangement for the scope, or when the applicant laboratory may choose.

### **3 . References**

- ILAC Cross Frontier Accreditation – Principles for Avoiding Duplication (ILAC G21: 09/2012)
- IAF Guidance on Cross Frontier Accreditation, Issue 1, Version 3 (IAF GD 3:2003)
- Documents published by PNAC are available [www.pnac.org.pk/](http://www.pnac.org.pk/)
- Documents published by ILAC are available [www.ilac.org/](http://www.ilac.org/)
- Documents published by IAF are available [www.iaf.nu/](http://www.iaf.nu/)