

ISSUE 13 – ENSURING DIFFERENT CABS ARE WITNESSED

APAC Lead Evaluator Training Objectives:

Examine appropriate approaches in ensuring that different CABs are witnessed than those on the previous evaluation.

ILAC Finding: NC-02 of AB#2 and APAC Response

ITEM	CONSIDERATION
DM NC # 2	The witnessing selected for this re-evaluation involved the same CABs as those witnessed in the last peer-evaluation, although the AB has 22 CABs accredited in the PTP area. Requirement: IAF/ILAC A2 §3.1.5
Date	Response from the Region
2018/04/19	Agreed. It is however noted that with small programs the availability for witnessing activities is limited and depending on the ABs surveillance intervals the same facilities may be the only facilities due to witness. This issue will be discussed at the June 2018 MRA Council meeting by the MRA Council Chair.
Date	Reaction from the IAF / ILAC evaluation team
2018/05/15	The team acknowledges that sometimes the selection of witnessing is a challenge, but with 22 accredited CABs that is more difficult to accept. So although a awareness action is needed, the team would like to know if there's any control & alert mechanism in place before closing the finding.
Date	Response from the Region
2018/08/06	APAC MRA-001 requires the AB making necessary arrangements for the evaluation visit, that include: "Providing the evaluation team with a list of assessments that are scheduled to take place at least 6 weeks before the proposed on-site evaluation date;" "The Team Leader (in consultation with the Team Members, when necessary) and the applicant body together shall decide upon the agenda for the evaluation visit, taking into account the scope of the accreditations offered and the time needed to conduct an effective evaluation. Careful consideration shall be given to the selection of accreditation assessments of CABs to be witnessed. Ideally, for each of the scopes of recognition in the APAC MRA being sought by the applicant body, the evaluation team shall witness at least one initial assessment, or reassessment, or on-site assessment involving a significant component of technical assessment by the applicant body. The key objective is that the evaluation team witness the performance of the accreditation body's technical assessors to determine the level of competency and adherence to the applicant accreditation body and APAC MRA requirements." The Secretariat also provides the Team Leader with the list of witnessed CABs from the last evaluation.
Date	Reaction from the IAF / ILAC evaluation team
2018-10-26	Corrective action accepted. The issue has been addressed at the MRA Council meeting attended by the ILAC TL-R. Finding closed

IAF/ILAC A2:2014, 3.1.5 (used during ILAC evaluation) and MRA 001:2014, 15.5 (not cited in the finding)

IAF/ILAC A2:2014

3.1 Preparation and Planning

- 3.1.5 For planning of the witnessing, the AB shall provide the assessment planning. This gives the evaluation team the opportunity to carefully

select and plan the witnessing activities taking into consideration the following:

- standards for accreditation
- number of accredited CAB,
- size of the fields,
- initial evaluation/re-evaluation,
- **witnessed assessments from the last evaluation,**
- cross frontier accreditation policy and relative procedures.

If the applicant or signatory is active in the framework of an industry or regulator specific scheme, then the fulfilling of the requirements set by that industry group or by regulators for accreditation bodies shall also be considered on a sampling basis.

MRA 001:2014

15 Preparation for Evaluation

- 15.5 The team leader (in consultation with the team members, when necessary) and the applicant body together shall decide upon the agenda for the evaluation visit, taking into account the scope of the accreditations offered and the time needed to conduct an effective evaluation. Careful consideration shall be given to the selection of accreditation assessments of CABs to be witnessed. Ideally, for each of the scopes of recognition in the MRA (testing, calibration, ISO 15189, inspection, RMP and/or PTP accreditation) being sought by the applicant body, the evaluation team shall witness at least one initial assessment, or reassessment, or on-site assessment involving a significant component of technical assessment by a technical assessor or technical expert. The key objective is that the evaluation team witness the performance of technical assessors as much as possible. The remainder of the witnessing schedule can be filled with assessments of other types.

Other factors that may impact on the number and selection of witnessed assessments include:

- The relative number of accreditations within each conformity assessment type or sub-fields of conformity assessment type;
- **Witnessed CAB assessment from the last evaluation;**
- Geographical distribution of accredited CABs;
- Cross frontier accreditation policies and procedures.

IAF/ILAC A2:2019, 3.1.5 and APAC MR 001:2019, 19.9 (current versions)

IAF/ILAC A2:2018

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- standards for accreditation,

- number of accredited CAB,
- size of the fields,
- initial evaluation/re-evaluation,
- **witnessed assessments from the last evaluation,**
- cross frontier accreditation policy and relative procedures.

If the applicant or signatory is active in the framework of an industry or regulator specific scheme, then the fulfilling of the requirements set by that industry group or by regulators for accreditation bodies shall also be considered on a sampling basis.

APAC MR 001:2019

19 Preparation for Evaluation

19.9 Other factors that may impact the number and selection of witnessed assessments include:

- The relative number of accreditations within each conformity assessment type or sub-fields of conformity assessment type;
- **Witnessed CAB assessment from the last evaluation;**
- Geographical distribution of accredited CABs;
- Cross frontier accreditation policies and procedures;
- Domestic and regulatory requirements, policies and/or procedures.

Acceptable / Possible solutions

We were reminded of this requirement at the 2018 MRA meeting but would not hurt to confirm we all understand the same thing here. Check as soon as practical what was covered last time and forward plan accordingly?