

SADCAS PUBLISHES TR13 - CRITERIA FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF INSPECTION BODIES PERFORMING INSPECTION OF METALLIC TANKS

SADCAS is ready and looking forward to the accreditation of Inspection Bodies performing inspection on metallic tanks. As the scope of "Metallic tanks" is new and with some facilities having expressed their intention to apply for accreditation, SADCAS has recently published document SADCAS TR 13: Criteria for the Accreditation of Inspection Bodies Performing Inspection of Metallic Tanks. The document which was published on 29 September 2015 was prepared by SADCAS based on the input of the Advisory Committee for inspection in Zimbabwe.



Various types of metallic tanks

The document which is structured into 4 main clauses outlines the criteria for the accreditation of independent inspection bodies performing inspection of metallic tanks.

General Requirements

Under Clause 3, the document lists the requirements for the approval of an independent inspection authority by the regulatory authority as follows:

- Registration as a legal entity;
- Registered offices located in a designated area;
- Adequate and appropriate equipment to cover the scope of inspection activities;
- Access up to date information on appropriate inspection methods and codes;
- Development and maintenance of standards, codes and procedures to cover its scope of inspection activities. The document further lists some of the standards and codes of practices that may be used in the inspection of metallic tanks;

- Personnel who undertake the inspection having the appropriate technical and professional qualifications; and
- The organisation's accreditation by a recognised accreditation body.

Personnel Qualifications, Training and Experience

Under Clause 4 the document outlines the technical and professional qualifications, and experience that the inspection body's personnel undertaking inspections should have.



Inspector at work on tanks

The personnel requirements for the following areas below, applicable to metallic tanks are outlined in detail in the document:

- Manufacturing Inspection
- In-service Inspection
- Design Verification

In assessing the inspection body's competence, the criteria in the SADCAS TR 13 document and the requirements of IOS/IEC 17020 shall apply.

Benefits of Accredited Inspection Services

Inspection is the examination of a product design, product service, process or plant and the determination of conformity with specific requirements on the basis of professional judgment. Inspection involves examination by qualified personnel using techniques including visual examination, dimensional checks and examinations using gauges and instruments. Accreditation which is the process of providing recognition to a conformity assessment body for its competence in performing specific tasks is the strategy for inspection bodies to achieve this. Accreditation of an inspection body of metallic tanks in accordance with ISO/IEC 17020 and SADCAS TR 13 provides a number of benefits:

- ✓ It is a means of providing independent assurance of inspection bodies' technical competency and integrity;
- ✓ It provides confidence in the quality of services provided by inspection bodies;
- ✓ It enhances credibility and reputation of inspection bodies;
- ✓ It reduces costs associated with repetitive inspections and lost time is minimized;
- ✓ It provides a benchmark with international best practices;
- ✓ It reduces risk associated with accidents and injuries;
- ✓ It can be used as a defence against litigation;
- ✓ It improves acceptance of goods internationally thus facilitates trade and economic development.

SADCAS TR13 Criteria for the Accreditation of Inspection Bodies Performing Inspection of Metallic Tanks is available and can be downloaded from the SADCAS website: http://www.sadcas.org/policies_n_procedures.php