



## PROFICIENCY TESTING ACCREDITATION SCHEME (PTAS)

*The SADCAS Proficiency Testing Accreditation Scheme (PTAS) was established in October 2024. The PTAS is multi – disciplinary accreditation scheme operated in accordance with ISO/IEC 17043: 2023.*

*Accreditation of Proficiency Scheme in accordance with ISO/IEC 17043: 2023 means of demonstrating competence and safety to internal and external clients; Accredited proficiency testing (PT) schemes offer significant benefits for laboratories, including improved quality assurance, enhanced staff training, and enhanced confidence in laboratory performance with external stakeholders. Accreditation of PT schemes also demonstrates commitment to quality and compliance with international standards.*

### AREAS OF ACCREDITATION:

1. Medical PT
2. Testing PT
3. Calibration PT

### Accreditation Criteria

Proficiency Testing facilities seeking to be accredited on the SADCAS PTAS need to comply with the International Standard ISO/IEC 17043: 2023: General requirements and the SADCAS Accreditation Requirements

### The Accreditation Process

**A Proficiency Testing Provider wishing to be accredited submits the following:**

- A duly completed SADCAS F 43 (j): Application for accreditation of Proficiency Testing Providers
- Quality manual and procedures
- Duly completed SADCAS F 43 (f): Application for approval of personnel, i.e. Nominated Representatives, Scheme Manager(s) and Scheme Coordinator(s)
- SADCAS F 44: SADCAS accreditation agreement.

- Upon receipt, SADCAS undertakes a completeness check of the application documents.

- SADCAS provides the applicant with a detailed quotation based on the scope of application. If acceptable, the applicant signs and returns duly signed quotation to SADCAS for invoicing

- Once payment for application is received, SADCAS undertakes a documentation review of the applicant's quality manual and provides Document Review Report with feedback on gaps to be addressed before the application proceeds to the assessment stage.

- Pre- assessments are optional but may be compulsory depending on the regulator's condition for acceptance where



required. Pre-assessment is an on- site visit to check the readiness of applicants for accreditation.

An initial assessment of the organization's competence is undertaken on-site to verify competence and compliance with ISO/IEC 17043 standard, SADCAS requirements and other applicable requirements.

### Assessors

Assessors are experts drawn from a pool of from the public and private sectors as well as from professional technical institutions/associations in the SADC region who have been trained, qualified and registered as assessors. Assessors trained and qualified by other accreditation bodies and evaluated for competence can also undertake assessments on behalf of SADCAS. An assessment is undertaken by an assessment team consisting of a Team Leader and at least one Technical Assessor/Technical Expert with expertise in the scope of assessment. The assessment team makes recommendations for accreditation.

**Accreditation decision** is made by the Accreditation Approvals Committee based mainly on the information gathered during an assessment. The accreditation certificate is valid for 5 years and renewed subject to terms and conditions of the PTAS.

### Accreditation Documents

SADCAS accreditation documents are available from the SADCAS website [www.sadcas.org](http://www.sadcas.org)

### Accreditation Fees

SADCAS accreditation fees are contained in SADCAS AP 02: SADCAS service fees. The fees contained therein are estimates. Individual quotations are provided based on the fee estimates contained therein. SADCAS accreditation fees are reviewed annually.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE SADCAS PROFICIENCY TESTING ACCREDITATION SCHEME, PLEASE CONTACT

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