 **APPROVED**

**Director of “National Accreditation Body” SNCO**

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**« 04 »**  April 2022

Order No\_\_\_5-KH\_\_\_\_

***Adopted by Accreditation Council decision N 1/1,***

***March 4, 2022***

**POLICY**

**ON CROSS-BORDER ACCREDITATION**

**PL-09**

**Developed by:**

**Management System Manager**

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(name, surname, signature)

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**“*The present document represents the English version of the document under reference at the specified revision. In case of conflict, the Armenian version will prevail*”**

Yerevan 2022

# Introduction

This document stipulates the National Accreditation Body SNCO’s (hereinafter: ARMNAB) policy on the accreditation of conformity assessment bodies (hereinafter: CAB) and provision of services by accredited CABs (whose offices are located in the Republic of Armenia) beyond the borders of the Republic of Armenia.

The policy is in line with GOST ISO/IEC 17011-2018 standard, Regulation № 765/2008 (EC), EA, IAF and ILAC documents.

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# 2. Normative references

The following documents are referred to in this document:

GOST ISO/IEC 17011 Conformity assessment – general requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies

EA-2/13 EA Cross Border Accreditation Policy and Procedure for Cross Border Cooperation between EA Members

IAF MD 12 Accreditation assessment of conformity assessment bodies with activities in multiple countries

ILAC G21 Cross frontier accreditation - principles for cooperation

PR-7 Procedure on accreditation

# 3. Rules of cross-border accreditation

3.1 As stipulated by Article 20 of the RA Law on Accreditation, the ARMNAB can render accreditation services to foreign conformity assessment bodies in line with the regional and international requirements of accreditation.

3.2 During cross-border accreditation, the ARMNAB shall cooperate with foreign accreditation bodies while performing assessment in the given state’s branch (branches) of the CAB operating in the RA in line with Regulation № 765/2008 (EC).

3.3 Foreign organizations can apply to the ARMNAB for accreditation in the following cases:

a) if there is no Local accreditation body in the given state,

b) if the Local accreditation body of the given state does not perform accreditation in the given scope,

c) Local accreditation body is not a signatory of the relevant EA MLA,

d) other reasonable cases.

3.4 When accrediting foreign organizations, the ARMNAB shall take into account the requirements of EA-2/13, IAF MD 12 and ILAC G21 documents.

3.5 The ARMNAB performs accreditation and surveillance in line with the procedure PR-7, as well as additional requirements with respect to the specific legislation, knowledge of language and culture of the given state.

3.6 If an ARMNAB has granted accreditations in another country in the EA region due to the lack of available competence of the Local accreditation body to accredit the requested activity or due to the fact that the Local accreditation body is not a signatory of the relevant EA MLA, CABs shall be informed of the fact that they will have to transfer their accreditation to the Local accreditation body as soon as these (see 3.3) conditions change. In these situations, the principles of this document apply. The ARMNAB shall not initiate a new accreditation cycle or extend the accreditation after the Local accreditation body enters the MLA.

# 4. Provision of services by accredited CABs beyond the RA borders

4.1 Accredited CABs can render services beyond the RA borders in case they meet the additional requirements stipulated by this document.

4.2 The CAB performing conformity assessment activities beyond the RA borders shall have a policy on the geographical area (countries) where it operates.

4.3 Before the assessment by the ARMNAB, the CAB performing activities beyond the RA borders shall provide information as to in which state and in which scope it rendered conformity assessment services.

4.4 The conformity assessment body (headquarter) shall be in charge for the activities of its branches located beyond the borders of the Republic of Armenia. This means that the headquarter shall bear operational, financial, and legal responsibility for the activities of its branches. The responsibility shall be stipulated in the contracts concluded between the headquarter and its branches, as well as in the internal rules specifying the management and responsibility among the parties.

4.5 If the branch renders conformity services, the contract concluded between the branch and the clients shall specify that the headquarter bears operational, financial, and legal responsibility for the activities of its branches.

4.6 The headquarter and all of its branches shall operate as one organization under the same management and quality management system. The headquarter shall ensure the means of management and the oversight of the activities implemented by its branches and present the efficiency of that oversight.

4.7 The accreditation scope shall include the addresses of the branches where the activities are performed.

4.8 The branches shall not offer accredited services in the local market using their own name or logo. The branches shall render conformity assessment activities in the local market only on behalf of the accredited headquarter. The documents including results of accredited activities shall contain a mention of the name and address of the headquarter specified in the accreditation certificate. In addition, the contact details of the branch can also be mentioned.

4.9 The ARMNAB performs the assessment and witnessing of the activities of the branches of the conformity assessment body located beyond the RA borders in line with the EA 2/13 requirements, wherever possible, the Foreign accreditation body shall subcontract to the Local accreditation body the assessment of the CAB’s activities conducted under the Foreign accreditation body accreditation, including witnessed assessments, that are performed in the Local accreditation body’s country, whenever the Local accreditation body is a signatory to the relevant EA MLA scope. The assessment can be performed in cooperation with the Local accreditation body. The Foreign CAB cannot decline the participation of the Local accreditation body’s representative in the assessment process.

5. The validity period of this policy is not limited.

6. This policy shall be revised upon necessity.

**HISTORY OF REVISIONS**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
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**DOCUMENT FAMILIARIZATION SHEET**

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