


INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION SERVICE®

IAF Mandatory Document – MD 7:2010
(Harmonization of Sanctions to be applied to Conformity Assessment Bodies)


Introduction



- AB's are required to have procedures for suspension, withdrawal or reduction of the accreditation scope.
- This MD clarify the situations where the sanctions shall be applied to applicant or accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) and the subsequent necessary communication which shall be taken by ABs.
- The following are applicable not only to the scope of the IAF MLA but also to any other IAF accreditation activities, not just the management system certification.
- Other situations are at individual AB's discretion.

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Initiation of sanctions



Situations that lead to sanctions :


- Failure to resolve nonconformities in accordance with an AB's procedures;
- Negative outcome of a complaint investigation;
- Misuse/misrepresentation of an accreditation symbol;
- Non-payment of fees.

Sanctions available



- **Sanctions available include, but are not limited to:**
 - Intensification of surveillance (office, witness or document review);
 - Reduction of accreditation scope (including geographical scope);
 - Suspension;
 - Withdrawal;
 - Public notice of scope reduction/suspension/withdrawal/misrepresentation of accreditation;
 - Legal actions.
- Application of sanctions outlined does not preclude legal action by third parties, regulators, public authorities or any other interested parties.
- AB can refuse services if an AB perceives that any known violation of laws and regulations by the CAB would bring the AB into disrepute.

Specific harmonized sanctions




The following are situations requiring specific sanctions by the AB:

- Where there is proven evidence of fraudulent behavior,
- The CAB intentionally provides false information,
- The CAB deliberately violates accreditation rules,
- Where a CAB is providing certification to any standard used as a basis for accrediting CABs
- The action detailed in this mandatory document does not override the CABs right to appeal against a decision

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Communication



- In each of the situations that lead to suspension or withdrawal of accreditation and after any appeal decision in accordance with the AB's appeals procedures, the AB shall notify the IAF Secretariat of this decision and the reasons.
- The IAF Secretary shall then communicate the decision and status to all IAF Member ABs in the following format:
- "[Name of AB] [state the action as 'withdrew' or 'suspended'] accreditation of [Name of CB] on [date] for [state the proven offence]."

Thank you!



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