

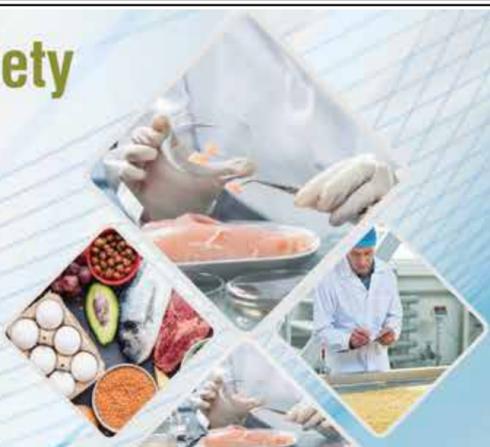
Accreditation: Improving Food Safety



WORLD ACCREDITATION DAY

9 JUNE 2020

Pakistan National Accreditation Council
Ministry of Science & Technology, Islamabad
Government of Pakistan



MESSAGES



Chaudhry Fawad Hussain
Federal Minister for Science and Technology

It is my pleasure and a matter of great satisfaction that Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC) and Ministry of Science & Technology are celebrating the World Accreditation Day, along with the international community with this year's theme "Accreditation: Improving Food Safety".

Standardisation and accreditation are referenced in the WTO TBT Agreement and plays pivotal role in trade facilitation. In order to meet such requirements, regulations and its implementations are extremely important. Moreover, accreditation provides assurance and guarantees the competence and integrity of conformity assessment activities, which can be used to support the implementation of government policies and regulations impacting health, safety and security.

Internationally, the regulators have now started recognising the benefits of accreditation. Accreditation has become a proven tool that can be applied to a wide variety of assessment, approval or evaluation tasks that can be used to address a wide range of regulatory requirements. Most of the developed and developing

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Capt. (Retd.) Nasim Nawaz
Federal Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology

World Accreditation Day is observed on the 9th of June every year globally, to create and raise public awareness of different accreditation schemes. The theme for this year is "Accreditation in Improving Food Safety".

Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC), working under the Ministry of Science & Technology (MoST), is the sole organisation in Pakistan which has been given the mandate to provide accreditation services to all types of conformity assessment bodies such as laboratories, certification bodies, inspection bodies, proficiency testing providers and other services sectors such as health-care, halal certification in the country.

Accordingly, PNAC has been peer evaluated by the international apex bodies resulting in signing Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) and Multilateral Recognition Agreement (MLA). It means a test, certification or inspection carried out by any conformity assessment body that is accredited by PNAC will be accepted worldwide.

This year's theme is focussed on

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Ateeq-ur-Rehman
Director-General, Pakistan National Accreditation Council

I am pleased to announce that Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC) is celebrating "World Accreditation Day" together with international community on June 9, 2020. Theme for this year's World Accreditation Day is 'Accreditation In Improving Food Safety'. It is a global initiative of International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) to raise awareness related to the importance of accreditation in improving food safety.

Consuming safe and healthy food is the right of every consumer around the world. Food safety primarily deals with the health and well-being of consumers globally, where the level of hazard caused by food is a primary concern. It is noteworthy that the consumption of contaminated food infects consumers and results in food related diseases. At present, the assurance of food safety is of fundamental necessity, given that risks to food safety can surface at any stage of the food supply chain. Therefore, all stakeholders involved in the food supply chain must contribute to ensure food safety. The

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Joint Statement



Xiao Jianhua
Chair, IAF



Ety Feller
Chair, ILAC

Accreditation has a crystal-clear objective: it aims to assure businesses, end users and regulators that a conformity assessment body (CAB), such as a certification or inspection body, testing, calibration or medical laboratory, has the required technical competence and operates impartially. This competence is assessed by accreditation bodies against international standards and requirements.

Simply applied to food, accreditation helps improve food safety. Building on World

Accreditation Day 2019 which highlighted the role of accreditation in adding value to supply

chains, the 2020 World Accreditation Day spotlights accreditation's role in improv-

ing food safety.

It does this across the whole of the food supply chain from farm to fork, through food production, processing and packaging, storage and transportation, to retail and catering, helping build layers of assurance in the supply chain.

Accreditation bodies assess CABs in a variety of different key functions, assessing them against standards which have been developed by the global community through the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and

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Tti Testing Laboratories: a globally recognised testing facility

We, at Tti Testing Laboratories, take pride in being Pakistan's globally recognised third party testing laboratory serving a wide range of industries since 1995. The MRA (Mutual Recognition Arrangements) and membership of PNAC with ILAC (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation), APAC (Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Council), and International Accreditation Forum give a global passport to our testing facility, and technically our test reports are bound to be recognised around the world.

The PNAC's support has enabled us to play an integral part in the economy of the country by supporting various manufacturers in exploring new markets and helping them in producing and exporting world-class products as per global quality, consumer safety and environmental compliance standards. The ISO/IEC



By Hamed K. Lateef
CEO, Tti Testing Laboratories

17025 Accreditation (Testing Services) and ISO/IEC 17020 Accreditation (Inspection Services) provided by PNAC has helped us in giving confidence to the global buyers to place orders in Pakistan

which otherwise would have been placed elsewhere in region.

We would like to specially thank Honourable Mr. Ateeq ur Rehman Memon, Director General, PNAC and his team for supporting us in this journey since the last 25 years. By the grace of Allah, today we are the largest Pakistani privately held Quality Assurance company of the country serving the COVID-19 PPE, Textiles/Apparel, Leather/Gloves/Footwear, Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals, Lubricants & Oils, Agri/Food, and Environmental compliance sector with a highly trained team of more than 200 (PhDs, Mphils, Engineers, MBAs) and experienced testing and inspection experts operating from all major industrial hubs of the country including Lahore, Karachi, Faisalabad, Sialkot and Qasur.

We would like to congratulate PNAC and its team for their contribution to the economy of the country. ■



Pakistan National Accreditation Council

Ministry of Science & Technology, Islamabad
Government of Pakistan

Halal Accreditation

IMPROVING FOOD SAFETY




ACCREDITED

ALERT

Always use services of accredited HCBs to assure competence and beware of fake Accreditation & Certification

If you want to sure that you are using Halal Products strive for HALAL Accreditation and only use the services of accredited HALAL Certification Bodies

BENEFITS OF ACCREDITATION

- Facilitates WTO agreements of TBT & SPS.
- Facilitates regulators in maintaining security, health, safety, environment and reduce regulations.
- Build confidence of Consumers and Exporters in products or services certified /tested by accredited CABs.
- Promote quality culture that provides opportunities for the enhancement of businesses and exports.
- Ensure the Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) consistently follow the applicable standards.
- Play pivotal role in the prosperity of the country through credible trade.
- Increase business volumes & raising HALAL market culture for improving food safety.

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FEATURED TESTING SERVICES

COVID-19 PPE TESTING

- Prerequisite for CE/FDA Certification for Exports
- NDMA, PDMA Tender Qualification Requirements
- R&D and Product Development for achieving the best quality.
- Global Buyer Requirements

OUR COVID-19 PPE TESTING SERVICES:

- Medical/ Non-Medical Face Mask Testing
- Tyvek Suits/ Gowns Testing
- Hand Sanitizers / Disinfectants Testing
- Hand Sanitizers / Disinfectants Testing
- Gloves Testing

AGRI /FOOD TOXICOLOGY TESTING

- Toxicology & Consumer Safety Compliance
- PSQCA/ Punjab Food Authority/ Sindh Food KPK Food Authority, Pakistan Halal Authority Compliance
- Prerequisite for Food Safety Certifications
- Export Quality Compliance and Regional Regulations
- Supply Chain Quality Assurance & Integrity

OUR FOOD TOXICOLOGY SERVICES:

- Pesticide residues
- Mycotoxin (aflatoxin, ochratoxin-A, Aflatoxin-M1 Patulin, DON, ZON)
- Heavy metals
- Drug residues
- Poly aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)
- Flavonoids
- Carotenoids
- Fat and oil (Fatty acid profile)

SAMPLE MATRIX:

● Wheat, Flour & Cereal Products	● Oil & Ghee
● Rice	● Milk & Dairy Products
● Animal Feeds	● Meat, Poultry & Eggs
● Fruits & Vegetables	● Honey
● Spices	● Sugar
● Pulses	● Beverages & Juices
● Dry Fruits	● Drinking & Irrigation Water
	● Tea



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MESSAGES

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Chaudhry Fawad Hussain

countries have made accreditation a core element of their policymaking strategy. It is noteworthy that the European Regulation (EC) No 2017/625 relies primarily on accreditation to support food security in Europe. Moreover, Japan counts on accredited laboratories to test radioactivity/contamination levels in food. Accreditation is a tool to support the regulators. The standards and accreditation of the conformity assessment bodies (CABs) increase the exports of the country. Therefore, our special emphasis is to strengthen the standardisation, accreditation and laboratories system in Pakistan.

It is extremely critical that consumers should have full confidence in the safety, security, and authenticity of the food, they consume. This confidence can only be gained through application of food safety management systems and supporting credible testing and inspection systems.

The term food safety describes all practices that are used to keep our food safe. Food safety depends on all stakeholders involved in the supply of food, from farmers, producers, retailers and to caterers. This is required, at national level and also across international borders from source to consumption. There are number of organisations that check compliance with the applicable standards by providing services such as testing and calibration laboratories, inspection agencies, and certification bodies. However, it is only accreditation which ensures that these organisations are impartial and competent to provide these services.

We have established infrastructure of accreditation in Pakistan in the form of Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC) which is the only public sector organisation, assessed at international level and recognised to be working according to the international standards. Government departments and regulatory authorities may, therefore need to specify in their public policies, government specifications and regulations that accredited bodies should be used to ensure compliance with laws, regulations and specifications.

In the current pandemic COVID-19 situation, the Government of Pakistan strongly recommends to use the services of accredited Certification Bodies, Laboratories, and Inspection Bodies to capitalise the global markets of personnel protective equipment (PPEs), disinfectants and sanitizers etc. PNAC solely, has the mandate to accredit CABs like laboratories, certification bodies and inspection agencies involved for the testing and certification of PPEs, disinfectants and sanitizers. Only the accredited organisations can produce the reliable and authentic testing results for better and effective diagnoses.

I would like to insist upon all the regulatory bodies to coordinate with PNAC and utilise its capabilities to make Pakistan dependable, trustworthy and competitive in the international trade market. I would also urge upon the local industry to avail the opportunity of internationally recognised accreditation services of PNAC to increase their exports, enhance the confidence in their products, earn foreign revenue and

strengthen the image of our products/services in the local and global market.

Capt. (Retd.) Nasim Nawaz

food safety because more than 600 million cases of foodborne illnesses have been reported annually as estimated alarmingly by the reports of WHO (World Health Organization), WTO (World Trade Organization) and FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of UN). Accreditation is the best answer to mitigate the threat of consumption of unsafe and low quality food products. Food safety is a key to achieve several of the sustainable development goals and it contributes to economic prosperity, boosting agriculture, market access, tourism and sustainable development. Accreditation contributes in food safety and helps in fighting foodborne diseases/hazards, reducing food poisoning at chemical and microbial levels and consequently saves monetary patient care expenses.

It is necessary to mention that, at present, there is no proven evidence that the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 can be transmitted through food. The virus is transmitted primarily by people, who are infected through coughing and sneezing droplets, which are then picked up by another person. The best way to avoid COVID-19 is through good hygiene practices, applied in food production and consumption.

Hence, I would like to urge all the conformity assessment bodies including laboratories, certification bodies and inspection bodies etc. to come forward and get accredited from Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC), as PNAC is one of the public institution of Pakistan with credibility and acceptance to equivalent status internationally.

Ateeq-ur-Rehman

foodborne diseases pose a threat to international public health safety and socio-economic development. Furthermore, with increasing amount of trade, travel, and immigration, the rate at which dangerous contaminants and pathogens pass through the geographical borders has increased manifolds. Consumers have the right to expect that both local and imported food products are safe.

Accordingly, the implementation of international food safety standards, tools for food safety assurance for industry, testing, inspection and certification bodies are now of immense importance than ever before. Role of Accreditation for food safety which is instrumental in providing confidence to all stakeholders such as regulators, producers, traders, and consumers upon utilising the services of an accredited organisation. There is an equal and important role of each conformity assessment, accreditation and mutual recognition arrangement for assuring the food safety. Food safety is dependent on the reliable trustworthy services of Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) such as testing & calibration (ISO/IEC 17025), inspection agencies (ISO/IEC 17020), Halal Certification bodies (PS:

4992, OIC & SMIIC guidelines), medical laboratories (ISO 15189), product certification bodies (ISO/IEC 17065), management system certification bodies (ISO/IEC 17021-1), and personnel certification bodies (ISO/IEC 17024).

Pakistan National Accreditation Council under the recognition of International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and International Accreditation Forum IAF, successfully providing services of Accreditation to conformity assessment bodies (CABs) with core motivation of global acceptance since decades. Moreover, PNAC is providing a harmonised platform to support international food trade with food safety standards and removing related technical barriers in trade by fulfilling the World Trade Organisation (WTO) requirements.

I am glad to say that PNAC has a proficient, comprehensive and competent infrastructure for improving food safety and ready to serve and assist all the relevant stakeholders of the food supply chain through more than 200 accredited CABs nationally and internationally. I, therefore, urge all stakeholders to get accreditation from PNAC as greater the number of accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies (CAB's), better will be the quality of the food products we consume.

Joint Statement

International Electro technical Commission (IEC). These standards cover functions such as inspection, certification and testing. With inspection bodies, certification bodies and laboratories accredited to these standards, they have been independently checked as being able to deliver competent and impartial inspection, certification and testing services in all parts of local, national and international food chains.

In April 2019, a Joint Statement issued by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the World Trade Organisation (WTO), highlighted the toll on humans of foodborne diseases. Accreditation aims to help support the reduction of these incidences through driving up the performance of organisations in the food supply chain. Accreditation is used across the globe to help meet this goal from the use of accredited certification in Australia through the Prime Safe scheme for meat and seafood supply; to the European Union using the accreditation of laboratories to support food security in Europe; to accredited inspection to help commercial catering establishments deliver safer food in France.

World Accreditation Day 2020 with its theme "Accreditation: Improving Food Safety" sets out to illustrate how in food safety, accreditation contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG 3 of good health and well-being. World Accreditation Day 2020 comes just two days after the second ever World Food Safety Day which aims to highlight the need for safe food. Through accreditation bodies and subsequently accredited certification bodies, inspection bodies and laboratories, the conformity assessment community continuously strives to help deliver safer food. ■

Halal accreditation in Pakistan

By Engr. Omer Qureshi
Project Director, Halal Accreditation

HALAL is an Arabic term meaning "lawful or permissible" and it does not only encompass food and drink, but all matters of daily life. When it comes to halal food, most people think of meat products only. However, Muslims must ensure that all foods, particularly processed foods, pharmaceuticals and non-food items like cosmetics are halal.

Similarly, hygienic may be defined as free from Najis (filthy/impure), contamination and harmful germs. Hygiene has been given much emphasis in Islam and it includes the various

aspects of personal hygiene, clothing, equipment and the working premises for processing or manufacture of food. All foods should be prepared, processed, packaged, transported and stored in such a manner that they are in compliance with halal standards and guidelines.

World Muslim population is approaching 1.7 billion. Muslims are 25-30% of the world's population which means that one out of every four human beings consumes halal products. There is also a significant consumption of halal food by non-Muslims because of safe food. The global market value for trade in Halal food and products have been estimated at USD

2.7 trillion per year.

At present, Malaysia, Turkey, Gulf, South Africa, Thailand, etc. have their halal standards. Unfortunately, there is no harmonised standard on halal, which is the basic requirement of the whole Muslim world. OIC/SMIIC has developed halal standards, which is in the process of adoption as a harmonised standard by majority of the countries.

Presently, in Pakistan different certification bodies are certifying halal without getting accreditation. All the certification bodies must get accreditation from Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC) for traceability. ■

Accreditation and its role in Covid-19 pandemic

By Azhar Iqbal
Director, PNAC

EARLY nobody on earth could have visualised the tumultuous times that we are going through today. The Covid-19 is a harsh blow to the modern day lifestyle and a lesson in rewriting the rules of living and surviving for all of us - the human race. The ongoing "Covid-19" is primarily a health crisis, but it also has far reaching consequences on political, social, economic, religious and financial structures of the whole world.

Covid-19 represents an unprecedented disruption to the global economy and world trade, as production and consumption are scaled back across the globe. The impact of the Covid-19 outbreak on international trade is not yet visible. According to a World Trade Organisation (WTO) report published on April 20, 2020, world trade is expected to fall by between 13% and 32% in 2020 as Covid-19 disrupts normal economic activity and life around the world.

The WTO agreements (SPS and TBT) address measures adopted by

members to protect public health & safety and facilitate the trade. In the context of current global health crisis, a large number of medical equipment, PPEs, hand sanitisers, disinfectants and other related supplies are shipped across borders. The WTO reiterates the member countries to strengthen the conformity assessment system through accreditation to facilitate the international trade.

Accreditation bodies are responsible for providing a formal attestation of the integrity of Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) such as testing, certification and inspections etc., and their competence to perform specific conformity assessment activities. PNAC maintained the MRA and MLA with ILAC, IAF and APAC since 2009, which support trade, health & safety (WTO agreements) and global value chains, with a single objective that tested/certified by PNAC's accredited CAB, accepted worldwide.

Keeping in the view the importance of accreditation in the context of Covid-19, PNAC has started remote assessments as per laid down international procedures to support

the businesses. The accredited conformity assessment services, particularly testing, certification and inspection are evidently important in this situation of the global health crisis and play a vital role in controlling the pandemic. Laboratories for the conformity assessment of medical protective and products (masks, clothing, sanitation products) play a particularly important role in the fight against Covid-19. Medical testing to conduct diagnostic testing for infectious diseases, is key in detecting the virus and mitigating its spread. The accredited inspection bodies are providing reliable pre/post shipment inspection for consignments from one country to the other. Certification bodies are also performing the management system, food safety and specially the product certification for medical devices and other goods.

PNAC, working under the administrative control of Ministry of Science and Technology, is contributing efficiently and effectively in this coronavirus pandemic by providing reliable and internationally recognised accreditation services. ■

Halal accreditation and food safety

By Abdus Sami
Deputy Director, Halal Accreditation

FOOD is the global fundamental requirement for sustaining the overall good health and well-being of the consumers. There are hundreds of foodborne diseases due to which around 600 million consumers become sick and over 420,000 die prematurely per annum.

Accreditation, a tool, referred to as an important component of the quality infrastructure which provides assurance to food consumers or users that food safety is dependent on the credible and traceable services of Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) such as, FSMS, GAP, organic certification etc., and Halal Accreditation.

Halal food now is not limited to only Muslims but non-Muslims are also considering it due to its value-added features and safe food. The 'Halal Accreditation' is based on applicable standard, PS:4992 & OIC/SMIIC guidelines.

Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC) is the sole accreditation body and pioneer in the world for halal accreditation. Pakistan is the founder member of International Halal Accreditation Forum (IHAF) and an active member of The Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries (SMIIC).

The importance of halal accreditation is not only for improving food safety, it also has the provision to assure the food safety for consumers. It also gives assurance of safety, quality, competence for all

stakeholders such as for regulators. It facilitates in maintaining food safety, security, health, environment to reduce regulations, for Halal Certification Bodies and provides essential support to maintain the competence of HCB on national and international halal standards. Similarly, for other stakeholders, Halal Accreditation also builds confidence in products or services certified by the accredited Halal Certification Bodies among processors, manufacturers, traders, importers, exporters and consumers.

The regulators, producers, and consumers should always only rely on the traceable Halal Certification Bodies which are accredited by PNAC, and play role in maintaining and delivering safe and healthy food. ■