

Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC)

Ministry of Science & Technology

Islamabad

SHORT & LONG-TERM PLANS, POLICIES AND SCHEMES OF PNAC

INTRODUCTION:

With the establishment of WTO and its policies of trade liberalization, export is increasingly dependent on the supply of quality goods and services in the international market. Access to developed countries, which are the major trading partners of Pakistan, now require compliance to international standard and providing evidence of such compliance through internationally recognized accreditation services. Pursuant to the requirements of WTO (TBT & SPS Agreements), Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC) was established in 1998 under the administrative control of Ministry of Science & Technology with a mandate to accredit laboratories (testing/calibration/medical), Inspection Bodies (IBs) and Certification Bodies (CBs) and Halal Certification Bodies (HCBs) etc. PNAC has established, maintained and implemented quality management system based on **ISO/IEC 17011** - *General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies (CABs)*. For the purpose PNAC has developed short term and long terms plans of accreditation activities subject to the availability of resources for the recognition of conformity assessment bodies.

VISION:

To become the most competent and reliable accreditation body of the region.

MISSION:

Pakistan National Accreditation Council has the mission to strive actively for quality improvement, competence and integrity of Conformity Assessment Bodies such as Testing, Calibration, Medical Laboratories, Inspection Bodies, Management System and Halal Certification Bodies and health care systems by providing them internationally and

nationally recognized accreditation services that benefit the consumers, producers, regulators and other stakeholders.

VALUES:

- Impartiality, Confidentiality and Integrity.
- Competence, Commitment and Continual Improvement.
- Accountability

SURVEILLANCES / REASSESSMENT OF EXISTING ACCREDITED CABs TO SUSTAIN EXISTING SCOPE OF MRA & MLA:

Accreditation Cycle of PNAC is for 03 years. After award of Accreditation to CABs, continual surveillance assessments are conducted for 02 years following the re-assessment to maintain the recognition of PNAC. The decision of continuation, suspension, reduction or extension of scope or withdrawal is done after each assessment. Similarly, Peer Evaluation team reviews the record of assessments of PNAC and decides to continue the signatory status of PNAC or not. As per requirements of ISO 17011, PNAC plans to conduct the regular assessments of CABs to fulfill the requirement and sustain its MRA and MLA status. PNAC has developed a plan to proceed for surveillance and re-assessment activities accordingly.

ACCREDITATION OF NEW CABs:

Short term (2021)

Number of CABs: 30 with a total of 200

Subject to the provision of resources including human, financial and administration

Long term (2025)

Number of CABs: 100 to 150 with a total 300 to 350

Subject to the provision of resources including human, financial and administration

HUMAN RESOURCE:

Required technical Human Resource

SHORT TERM PLAN:

PROPOSED TECHNICAL POSTS (OFFICERS BS-17 and above)

S. #	Posts	No.	Year
1	Deputy Director General, Head Office	01	2021
2	Directors	04	2021
3	Deputy Director	05	2021
	Total	10	

PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE HR (BS-1 to 16)-SHORT TERM

S. No.	Designation and BPS of the Posts	No of Post
1	PS to DDG, BS-16	01
2	APS to Directors, BS-16	04
3	APS to Deputy Directors, BS-16	05
	Total	10

Building Requirement:

Independent head office building is required due to expansion of human resources be hired, as required till construction of its own building.

LONG TERM PLAN:

PROPOSED TECHNICAL POSTS (OFFICERS BS-17 and above)

S. #	Posts	No.	Year
1.	Deputy Director General, Head Office	01	2025
2.	Directors	05	2025
3.	Deputy Director	08	2025
	Total	14	

PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE HR (BS-1 to 16)-LONG TERM

S. No.	Designation and BPS of the Posts	No of Post
1	PS to DDG, BS-16	01
2	APS to Directors, BS-16	06
3	APS to Deputy Directors, BS-16	08
4	Steno typist, BS-14	06
5	UDC, BS-11	10
6	LDC, BS-09	10
7	Drivers, BS-04	08
8	Naib Qasid, BS-01	15
9	Chowkidars, BS-01	06
	Total:	70

A) Building Requirement:

Building for regional offices shall be required which may cost a monthly rent @ allowed by the government for each provincial Capital like Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar and Quetta. The cost of building rent may vary at the time of submitting Proposal or PC-1, hence it shall be provided at that stage.

Establishment of PNAC offices:

PNAC is sole accreditation body in the country and is willing to establish its own offices i.e., Head Office, Islamabad and Provincial Offices in at least four provinces of Pakistan for the promotion of accreditation and facilitation to the conformity assessment bodies. PNAC has developed short term and long term plans as below.

SHORT TERM PLAN:

S. #	Province	Year
1.	Islamabad Capital Territory, Islamabad	2021
2.	Sindh, Karachi	2021

LONG TERM PLAN:

S. #	Province	Year
1	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Peshawar	2025
2	Baluchistan, Karachi	2025
3.	Punjab, Lahore	2025

ACCREDITATION TOOL

Government of Pakistan is implementing a number of reform programs to improve the Pakistan's export performance. Trade and Competitiveness Program a "Reform Program", also aims to encourage trade, increase exports and improve the competitiveness of domestic industries in Pakistan. This is of critical importance in Pakistan as the country is pursuing increased global competitiveness and prosperity as part of Vision 2025, to become one of the top 10 largest economies by 2047. For the purpose PNAC has envisaged a reform program of developing its existing system through utilization of latest modern technology (IT Infrastructure) that will result in efficient operation of provision of recognition services to conformity assessment bodies and other stakeholders. This strengthening of PNAC will have significant impact on support and facilitation to trade.

Accreditation has a major role in the country's economy as it is the formal recognition of a body's competence to conduct a specific activity such as testing, calibration, inspection and certification which is the requirement of each item of trade to ensure quality. Recognition is declared by accreditation body after assessment of the evidences of implementation of specific series of International standards. These standards address critical issues related to quality of particular product/service including the required competence, impartiality and integrity of the system. PNAC's recognition ensures that accredited Certificates and test results produced by its accredited conformity assessment bodies are competitive throughout the World. This eliminates the need for multiple assessments of products, giving Pakistan industry the best competitive advantage in an ever-expanding and aggressive market.

In order to enhance the acceptability of the Pakistani Products, Asian Development Bank has recognized the key role of PNAC in increasing the Pakistani Exports and has developed 2 years plan for supporting and facilitating PNAC in following areas:

Automation of PNAC accreditation systems and processes: Through automation of the PNAC systems, the entire processes will be integrated resulting in

- i. Automation of PNAC systems and processes to integrate the entire PNAC systems and processes.
- ii. Significant reduction in time taken to complete the accreditation process,
- iii. Accuracy of performance,
- iv. Environment friendly processes in line with the vision of incumbent Government,
- v. Filling of gaps through online submissions and processing of documents,
- vi. Stakeholders will be appraised about the long term impact on their businesses of getting the products certified through accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies(CABs)
- vii. To strengthen the system of accreditation in Pakistan, in line with the international best practices, including the facilitation for certification process for products manufactured by women entrepreneurs

ACHIEVEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITIONS:

In order to fulfill the requirements of TBT agreement article 6.1 and 9.2, to strengthen the accreditation system in Pakistan and to enhance the credibility of accredited organizations at International/National level, PNAC has secured the signatory memberships of regional & international accreditation forums as follows;

- i. International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC)
- ii. International Accreditation Forum (IAF)
- iii. Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC)
- iv. International Halal Accreditation Forum (IHAF)
- v. Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries (SMIIC)

MUTUAL RECOGNITION ARRANGEMENTS (MRA) SCOPE:

Currently PNAC has secured MRA signatory status of ILAC and APAC in the field of Testing and Calibration Laboratories while the Inspection Bodies MRA has been approved on 20 Feb 2019.

MULTILATERAL RECOGNITION ARRANGEMENTS (MLA) SCOPE:

Currently PNAC has secured MLA signatory status of IAF and APAC in the field of Quality Management System (QMS), Environmental Management System (EMS) and Product Certification.

SHORT TERM PLAN TO ENHANCE THE RECOGNITION SCOPE:

S. #	Scheme	Year
1.	Medical laboratories	2024
2.	PT providers	2024
3	Food Safety Management System,	2024
4	Information Security Management System	2024
5	Certification of persons	2024

LONG TERM PLAN TO ENHANCE THE RECOGNITION SCOPE:

S. #	Scheme	Year
1.	Green House Gases	2028
2.	Organic Certification	2028
3.	Anti-bribery management systems	2028

LAUNCHING OF NEW SCHEMES:

SHORT TERM PLAN:

1. Food Safety Management System:

S. #	Scheme	Year
1.	Food Safety Management System,	2021

A Food Safety Management System (FSMS) is a network of interrelated elements that combine to ensure that food does not cause adverse human health effects. These elements

include programs, plans, policies, procedures, practices, processes, goals, objectives, methods, controls, roles, responsibilities, relationships, documents, records, and resources.

The five basic key elements are:

- Good Practices/ PRPs
- Hazard Analysis /HACCP
- Management Element / System
- Statutory and regulatory requirements
- Communication

2. Information Security Management System (ISMS)

S. #	Scheme	Year
1.	Information Security Management System	2021

An information security management system (ISMS) is a set of policies and procedures for systematically managing an organization's sensitive data. The goal of an ISMS is to minimize risk and ensure business continuity by pro-actively limiting the impact of a security breach. An ISMS typically addresses employee behavior and processes as well as data and technology. It can be targeted towards a particular type of data, such as customer data, or it can be implemented in a comprehensive way that becomes part of the company's culture. ISO 27001 is a specification for creating an ISMS. It does not mandate specific actions, but includes suggestions for documentation, internal audits, continual improvement, and corrective and preventive action

LONG TERM PLAN

1. Organic Certification:

S. #	Scheme	Year
1.	Organic Certification	2025

Organic certification is a certification process for producers of organic food and other organic agricultural products. In general, any business directly involved in food production can be certified, including seed suppliers, farmers, food processors, retailers and restaurants. A lesser known counterpart is certification for organic textiles (or Organic clothing) that includes certification of textile products made from organically grown fibers.

Requirements vary from country to country (List of countries with organic agriculture regulation), and generally involve a set of production standards for growing, storage, processing, packaging and shipping that include:

- avoidance of synthetic chemical inputs (e.g. fertilizer, pesticides, antibiotics, food additives), irradiation, and the use of sewage sludge;
- avoidance of genetically modified seed;
- use of farmland that has been free from prohibited chemical inputs for a number of years (often, three or more);
- for livestock, adhering to specific requirements for feed, housing, and breeding;
- keeping detailed written production and sales records (audit trail);
- maintaining strict physical separation of organic products from non-certified products;
- undergoing periodic on-site inspections.

2. Green House Gases:

S. #	Scheme	Year
1.	Green House Gases	2025

The ISO 14064 standard (published in 2006) is part of the ISO 14000 series of International Standard for environment management. The ISO 14064 standard provides governments, business, regions and other organizations with a complimentary set of tools for programs to quality to quantify, monitor, report and verify greenhouse gas emission.

ISO 14064-1:2006 specifies principles and requirements at the organization level for quantification and reporting of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and removals. It includes requirements for the design, development, management, reporting and verification of an organization's GHG inventory.

ISO 14064-2:2006 specifies principles and requirements and provides guidance at the project level for quantification, monitoring and reporting of activities intended to cause

greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions or removal enhancements. It includes requirements for planning a GHG project, identifying and selecting GHG sources, sinks and reservoirs relevant to the project and baseline scenario, monitoring, quantifying, documenting and reporting GHG project performance and managing data quality.

ISO 14064-3:2006 specifies principles and requirements and provides guidance for those conducting or managing the validation and/or verification of greenhouse gas (GHG) assertions. It can be applied to organizational or GHG project quantification, including GHG quantification, monitoring and reporting carried out in accordance with ISO 14064-1 or ISO 14064-2.

ISO 14064-3:2006 specifies requirements for selecting GHG validators/verifiers, establishing the level of assurance, objectives, criteria and scope, determining the validation/verification approach, assessing GHG data, information, information systems and controls, evaluating GHG assertions and preparing validation/verification statements.

3. Good Laboratory Practices (GLP):

S. #	Scheme	Year
1.	Good Laboratory Practices (GLP):	2025

In the experimental (non-clinical) research arena, the phrase **good laboratory practice** or **GLP** specifically refers to a quality system of management controls for research laboratories and organizations to ensure the uniformity, consistency, reliability, reproducibility, quality, and integrity of chemical (including pharmaceuticals) non-clinical safety tests; from physio-chemical properties through acute to chronic toxicity tests.

GLP was first introduced in New Zealand and Denmark in 1972, and later in the US in 1978 in response to the Industrial BioTest Labs scandal. It was followed a few years later by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Principles of GLP in 1992; the OECD has since helped promulgate GLP to many countries.

GLP applies to non-clinical studies conducted for the assessment of the safety or efficacy of chemicals (including pharmaceuticals) to man, animals and the environment. ^[1] GLP, a data quality system, should not be confused with standards for laboratory safety - appropriate

gloves, glasses & clothing to handle lab materials safely. The principles of GLP aim to ensure and promote safety, consistency, high quality, and reliability of chemicals in the process of non-clinical and laboratory testing. But, GLP is not limited only to chemicals. It applies to medical devices, food additives, food packaging, colour additives and other non-pharmaceutical products or ingredients as well.

4. Sustainable forest management:

S. #	Scheme	Year
1.	Sustainable forest management:	2025

Sustainable forest management is the management of forests according to the principles of sustainable development. Sustainable forest management has to keep the balance between three main pillars: ecological, economic and socio-cultural. Successfully achieving sustainable forest management will provide integrated benefits to all, ranging from safeguarding local livelihoods to protecting the biodiversity and ecosystems provided by forests, reducing rural poverty and mitigating some of the effects of climate change.

The "Forest Principles" adopted at The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 captured the general international understanding of sustainable forest management at that time. A number of sets of criteria and indicators have since been developed to evaluate the achievement of SFM at the global, regional, country and management unit level. These were all attempts to codify and provide for independent assessment of the degree to which the broader objectives of sustainable forest management are being achieved in practice. In 2007, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests. The instrument was the first of its kind, and reflected the strong international commitment to promote implementation of sustainable forest management through a new approach that brings all stakeholders together.

5. Gems and Jewelry Certification Scheme:

S. #	Scheme	Year
1	Gems and Jewelry Certification Scheme	2021

The art & craft of fine quality jewellery manufacturing are deeply rooted in the traditional heritage and history of Pakistan. Lahore and Karachi are the major hubs of jewellery manufacturing. There are more than thirty major cities and nearly three hundred smaller cities/mandi towns where jewellery manufacturing and trading clusters cater to domestic demand. In addition, there are at least 45,000 villages where jewellers operate as single-shop, manufacturing and selling units to meet the demand of rural population. Pakistan is a country with a population of more than 150 million people and a rich tradition of craftsmanship in jewellery manufacturing. Skilled/semi-skilled labour force is available at relatively lower rates, which offers a comparative advantage to the country. Their skill enhancement through training would lead to greater competitiveness. ISO has developed different standards in ISO 174 for Jewelry and precious metals. Gems and Jewelry producers, manufacturers and service providers may get certification on ISO 9001. The labs conducting tests may get accreditation on ISO 17025 for the recognitions of the testing reports.

6. Anti-Bribery Management System:

S. #	Scheme	Year
1.	Anti-Bribery Management System	2025

Bribery is one of the world's most destructive and challenging issues. With over US\$ 1 trillion paid in bribes each year, the consequences are catastrophic, reducing quality of life, increasing poverty and eroding public trust. Yet despite efforts on national and international levels to tackle bribery, it remains a significant issue. Recognizing this, ISO has developed a new standard to help organizations fight bribery and promote an ethical business culture.

7. Reference Material Producers:

S. #	Scheme	Year
1.	Reference Material Producers:	2022

Accreditation to ISO Guide 17034 "General Requirements for the Competence of Reference Material Producers" is designed to ensure competency in the manufacture of reference materials and assurance that international guidelines are followed in the production and assignment of material values. Accreditation to ISO 17034 involves excellent technical competence and quality management practices. It also adds both verification of critical production practices and accuracy of Reference Material. Certified Reference Materials are produced in our accredited manufacturing facility.