Accreditation: Assuring Competence
Outline

- Background of SAC
- SAC Accreditation Programmes
- Accreditation Process
- What is conformity assessment?
- What is accreditation?
- Proof of Accreditation
- Benefits of Accreditation
- Value Add of MRAs
Singapore Accreditation Council (SAC)

- SAC:
  - national body for accreditation of conformity assessment practices in Singapore
  - established in October 1996 under a Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) & Singapore Confederation of Industries (SCI)
SAC

• SAC was transferred to Standards, Productivity and Innovation Board (SPRING Singapore) on 1 April 2002

• SAC secretariat is a division of SPRING Singapore

• SAC programmes are managed by an independent Council with balanced representations
SAC

- complies with international guides and requirements
- represents Singapore in regional and international
- seeks mutual recognition with other bodies for market access and trade facilitation
Accreditation Programmes

**Broad-Based Accreditation**

- Testing and Calibration Laboratories
  - All disciplines
- Management Systems Certification Bodies
  - QMS
  - EMS
  - OSHMS
  - BCM
- Product Certification Bodies
- Inspection Bodies
  - Pressure vessels & lifting equipment
  - Structural steelwork
  - Motor vehicles
  - Central Alarm Monitoring Stations

**Industry Accreditation**

- Food
  - HACCP based Food Management System
  - Functional Food testing
- Logistics
  - Cargo Inspection Bodies
- Biomedical / Chemical
  - Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) Programme
- Healthcare
  - Medical Imaging
  - Certification of Good Distribution Practice (GDP) for Medical Devices
- Construction
  - Ready-Mixed Concrete
  - Soil Investigation works (under development & to be launched in 4th Qrt 2011)
- Gaming
  - Gaming Laboratories
Assessment Team

- Lead Assessor

- Technical Assessors
  - government agencies
  - tertiary institutions
  - inspection bodies professionals
Conformity Assessment

Conformity Assessment:

Process by which one verifies that products and services meet standards or technical specifications

Comprises activities such as testing, certification and inspection
What is Accreditation?

Accreditation:

Procedure by which an authoritative body gives recognition that a body or person is competent to carry out specific task.
Proof of Accreditation

- Accreditation is granted for specific test, calibration and inspection
- Not a blanket approval for wide fields or disciplines
- Endorsed reports give confidence on reliability of data
SAC Endorsed Reports

- SAC logo
- Certificate number
- Statement -

The results reported herein have been performed in accordance with the inspection body’s terms of accreditation under the Accreditation Scheme for Inspection Bodies of the Singapore Accreditation Council.
Benefits of Accreditation

• Accreditation has become almost a de facto prerequisite to international trade

• Increased Quality of Goods and Operations

• Useful Marketing Tool for Developing Countries
Increase Cost!

Unwarranted Technical Barrier to Trade!

Unsafe Products!

To Enter: Reliable Proof of Compliance required!

Deprive Access To Latest Products!
MRA Linkages

International Accreditation Forum (IAF)

Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC)

Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC)

European Co-operation for Accreditation (EA)

ilac
How does the MRA benefit you?
For the Government

The MRA provides governments with a credible and technically robust framework

- Develop and enhance government to government international trade agreements
- The long-term objective for a free-trade goal of “a product tested once, accepted everywhere”
For the Regulators

The MRA acts as an internationally recognised ‘stamp of approval’ to demonstrate compliance against agreed standards and requirements.

Reduced duplication as test and calibration data included in submissions for product approvals can be evaluated without re-testing.
For the Industry users

The MRA ensures that businesses that depend on test and calibration data have greater confidence in the accuracy of the test and calibration reports they purchase from accredited facilities.

Accredited facilities assessed as being competent to carry out these specific activities.
For the Manufacturers

The MRA ensures that manufacturing businesses can derive significant cost savings.

Businesses can choose to defer internal assessments of their suppliers by using facilities recognised as competent by accreditation bodies that are APLAC signatories.
How does MRA work?
MRA signatories will:

1. Mutually
   - Recognize one another’s accreditation
   - Accept results obtained by their accredited organisations

2. Recommend 3rd parties to recognize the same
Ensuring Confidence in APLAC MRA

National Accreditation Body

Accreditation Activities

Inspection Bodies
ISO/IEC 17020

System Certification Bodies
Management Systems Certification & Product Certification
ISO/IEC 17021

Laboratories
General Testing and Calibration - ISO/IEC 17025
Medical testing - ISO 15189

Testing / Inspection / Certification Activities

Products  Systems  Services
Examples of local regulatory acceptance

Currently, SAC has already captured about 80% of the local regulatory acceptance.
Conclusion

• Accreditation and conformity assessment provide assurance to the market
• Accreditation provides assurance about the CAB’s competence and operations
• The MLA provides equivalence of ABs on a regional/worldwide scale
Thank You
For Your Attention