

Pakistan National Accreditation Council

Quarterly Newsletter
Q3, 2020



Government of Pakistan
Ministry of Science and Technology

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Message from the Federal Minister



Ch. Fawad Hussain

Federal Minister, Ministry Of Science and Technology

I heartily congratulate Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC) on issuing its first ever Quarterly Newsletter to keep abreast all relevant stakeholders regarding its services. Government of Pakistan's foremost objective is to overcome longstanding trade barriers to our export industry. In the current regime of WTO, the quality infrastructure, standardization and accreditation plays a vital role in trade facilitation. Under the WTO agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), the implementation on requirements in accordance with good practices are essential to demonstrate the quality of exported products and services.

The role of PNAC in this regard is vital. It is internationally recognized and very well known for its equivalence and reliability of conformity assessment services. The products that once tested or certified by the PNAC's accredited conformity assessment body, does not require testing or re-certification. Hence, PNAC has opened the doors for national companies and removed the trade related barriers in terms of global export market.

I am pleased to support PNAC initiatives in facilitating the public and private sector in ease of doing business. I would also like to urge upon the local industry to avail the opportunity of internationally recognized accreditation services of PNAC for export enhancement, in order to increase their revenue, moreover, it will improve the quality of products and services in national and international market.

A NOTE from the Federal Secretary



Capt.(R) Nasim Nawaz

Federal Secretary,
Ministry of Science & Technology .

Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC) is a reputable and well established organization of Ministry of Science and Technology. It is an independent entity with 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 and halal certification in the country.

PNAC, in the national quality environment, acts as a powerful driver by providing enhanced trade opportunity to boost the economy. Accredited conformity assessment can be used to address a wide range of regulatory requirements. It is a flexible tool that can be applied to all sectors and to any kind of assessment, approval validations or evaluation process.

I appreciate the efforts and initiatives taken by PNAC and expect that it will enhance the mandate/scope of the Council keeping in view its importance at national level. Issuance of Newsletter for quarterly activities of PNAC will ensure the transfer of information to the end users and stakeholders about Accreditation process.

A NOTE from the DG



Ms. Ismat Gul Khattak
Director General (PNAC)

Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC) is an active international player striving for improvement in quality, productivity, and price. PNAC plays a pivotal role in the economic growth of the country by facilitating credible trade. Its services are comprised of accreditation, certification and training. Our accreditation and training programs are internationally recognized.

PNAC is proud of its team of competent assessors, technical experts, and qualified trainers. PNAC foundations are based on the seven important principles of Impartiality, confidentiality, integrity, competence, commitment, continuous improvement and accountability.

PNAC maintains an active engagement with all its stakeholders, which is a key ingredient for continuous quality improvement. We very much welcome the feedback from our partners and customers that may bring positive change and consequently results in improving our systems.

Ismat Gul Khattak

PNAC MISSION



Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC) 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 & Halal Certification Bodies and Healthcare Systems by providing them internationally and nationally recognized accreditation services that benefit the consumers, producers, regulators and other stakeholders.

PNAC VISION



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

PNAC VALUES



- Impartiality,
- Confidentiality and Integrity,
- Competence,
- Commitment, and, Continuous Improvement,
- Accountability

WHY OUR WORK IS IMPORTANT

Worldwide acceptance of certificate and test reports issued by conformity assessment bodies accredited by PNAC, helps the public and private business community to export locally manufactured goods and commodities to the international market with ease.

PNAC holds Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) and Multilateral Recognition Arrangements (MLA) with the following renowned regional and international entities:

- International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC)
- International Accreditation Forum (IAF)
- Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC)

These agreements have brought Pakistan an international recognition and it is now on the list of countries having harmonized and equivalence status for accreditation of Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs).

PNAC SERVICES

- Testing and calibration laboratories
- Certification bodies
- Medical Laboratories
- Inspection bodies
- Halal Certification Bodies
- Proficiency Testing Providers
- Product Certification Bodies
- Personal Certification Bodies



International Recognition of PNAC



International Accreditation Forum



International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation



Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC)

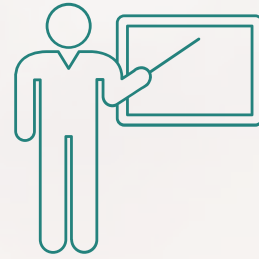


Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries



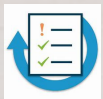
International Halal Accreditation Forum

TRAININGS



- Testing and Calibration labs according to ISO/IEC 17025
- Certification Bodies according to ISO/IEC 17021
- Inspection bodies according to ISO/IEC 17020
- Medical labs according to ISO 15189
- Halal Certification Bodies according to PS 4992:2010
- Proficiency Testing according to ISO/IEC 17043
- Product Certification according to ISO/IEC 17065
- Personal Certification bodies according to ISO/IEC 17024.

Number of Accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies



171

Testing & Calibration



7

Halal Certification



7

Certification bodies



1

Product Certification Bodies



10

Medical Laboratories



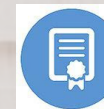
4

Proficiency Testing Provider



11

Inspection Bodies



1

Personal Certification Bodies

Prime Minister's meeting with Federal Minister Sci & Tech, PNAC and PSQCA

Federal Minister of Science & Tech Ch. Fawad Hussain along with Federal Secretary (Ministry of Science & Technology), DG PNAC, and DG PSQCA attended a meeting with Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr. Imran Khan on 10th September 2020. Ms. Ismat briefed the Prime Minister on the importance of accreditation, related processes and requirements. Prime Minister expressed keen interest in the accreditation process and inquired further on how PNAC acquires the authority to accredit. It was explained that this is done through peer evaluation.

Public private partnership of conformity assessment accreditation of PSQCA regulated products was also discussed. Industrial and business sectors which will be brought under this partnership were reviewed.



Briefing to the Federal Minister of Science and Technology

A meeting was held between Federal Minister for Science & Tech Ch. Fawad Hussain and DG (PNAC) Ms. Ismat Khattak on 12th August 2020, on the role of accreditation in the economy of the country.



Global and Regional Importance of PNAC

As international trade has grown so too has the number of national and international voluntary and mandatory technical regulations, standards, testing, inspection and certification procedures. This is seen as a trend across all market sectors which apply to samples, products, services, management systems or personnel. PNAC helps meet the regulatory requirements of quality and safety that consumers, businesses, regulators and other organizations demand in the case of goods and services irrespective of the country of origin. PNAC accreditation services help with export of products and services across borders to meet global demand without causing undue risk to the health and security of individuals or the environment. Hence, the role that PNAC plays is not only important for individuals and organizations but for national and international economic health.

KEY ENGAGEMENTS WITH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ENTITIES

PNAC- Board of Governors Meeting

Honorable Federal Minister for Science and Technology Chaudry Fawad Hussain, chaired the Board of Governors (BoG) meeting of PNAC on 12th August 2020. Ms. Ismat Gul Khattak (DG PNAC) briefed the Minister on performance of PNAC over last year. Federal Minister appreciated the efforts and initiatives taken by PNAC. He also gave directives to enhance the mandate/scope of the Council keeping in view its importance at national level & international level. The Federal Minister, while appreciating the Council's initiatives, stressed to take more actions for transfer of information to the end users and stakeholders.



Joint Meeting of PNAC and PSQCA with Federal Minister



A joint meeting of PNAC & Pakistan Standard and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) was chaired by Fed. Minister of Science and Technology Mr. Chaudry Fawad Hussain in Islamabad on 31st August 2020.

The attendees discussed public private partnership initiatives to improve the quality of products and implementation of relevant standards in Pakistan.



Accreditation

Accreditation, once considered a voluntary activity, has become "mandatory" in many areas as more and more Governments and regulatory authorities appreciate the benefits that accreditation brings in meeting their responsibilities towards safeguarding the consumer and business interests.

KEY ENGAGEMENTS WITH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ENTITIES



ADB country representatives discussed key development issues in accordance with PNAC policy and future action plan with the Director General (PNAC) on 11th August 2020.

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Haier

On 12th August 2020 during the meeting with Mr. Javed Afridi and Mr. Khalid Afridi matters related to trade were discussed. DG PNAC emphasized that Accreditation awareness leads to improved quality and standards of products, hence enhancing national export revenue. This is the reason Pakistan government is paying special attention to accreditation process



The global halal industry is a fast growing industry and incorporates everything from medicines to cosmetics. The collaboration between PNAC and Halal Authority is hence very important and was the key topic of discussions during the meeting between Ms. Ismat (DG, PNAC) and Mr. Akhtar Bughio (DG, Pakistan Halal Authority) held on 12th August 2020.



A meeting was held between Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC) and National Physical & Standards Laboratory (NPSL) on 20th August 2020. Ms. Ismat Khattak (DG, PNAC), Mrs. Fozia Khan (DG, NPSL) and the team discussed issues related to Proficiency Testing (PT) and meteorological traceability.



NATIONAL AWARENESS (PSDP) PROJECTS & OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

Pakistan National Accreditation Council has been conducting awareness sessions across Pakistan to spread awareness about the importance of accreditation. Following are details of the seminars, events and workshops held during the third quarter of 2020.

Seminar- Accreditation of Medical Labs and Healthcare Facilities

University of Lahore Teaching Hospital, Lahore

Pakistan National Accreditation Council organized one day seminar in collaboration with University of Lahore Teaching Hospital (ULTH) on 20th July 2020 in Lahore. Dr. Zahid Pervez (MS, UOL) thanked PNAC delegation for organizing the event. Ateeq-Ur-Rehman (Deputy DG, PNAC) and Dr. Sarfaraz (Project Director, PNAC) gave awareness sessions on accreditation of Medical Laboratories & Health Care Facilities. Seminar was attended by over 50 healthcare professionals.

Attendees appreciated the role of PNAC in creating awareness on accreditation, its requirements and benefits.



Seminar- Accreditation of Medical Labs and Healthcare Facilities

Midland Doctors Medical Institute,
Muzaffarabad - A J & K

Pakistan National Accreditation Council is ambitious to extend its outreach to far flung areas of Pakistan and raise awareness among the local healthcare professionals about the latest standards in healthcare. PNAC team in collaboration with Midland Doctors Medical Institute (Muzaffarabad, AJK) on 19th August 2020 organized an awareness session on Accreditation of Medical Laboratories & Health Care Facilities Seminar was attended by the staff of Midlands hospital as well as other hospitals in AJK including CMH. Attendees requested PNAC to further hold a full training session on the hospital and medical lab accreditation standards in Muzaffarabad.



Seminar - Halal Accreditation

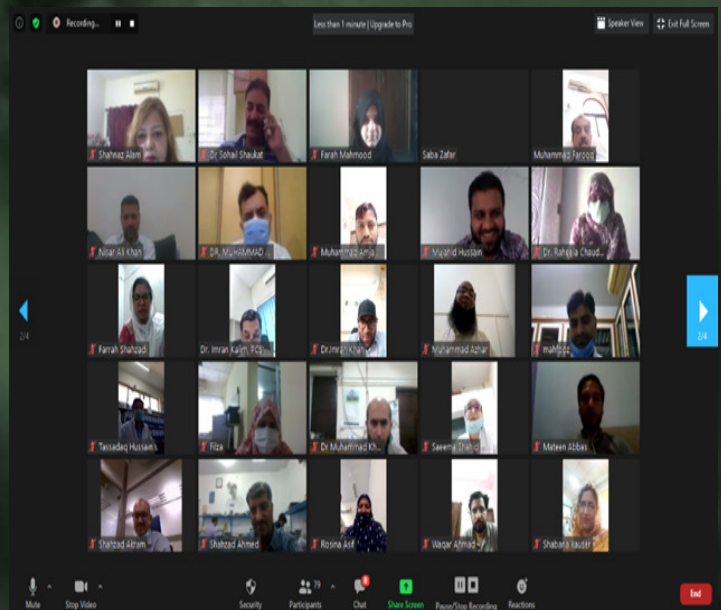
Department of Industries and Commerce (AJK)

PNAC conducted an awareness seminar on Halal Accreditation in collaboration with Department of Industries and Commerce on 19th August 2020, Muzafarbad (AJK). The theme of the seminar was "Halal Accreditation as a Gateway to International Trade".. Mrs. Naureen Arif (Minister, Department of Industries), Khawaja Ahsan (Secretary, Department of Industries and Commerce) , Ismat Gul Khattak (DG, PNAC) spoke at the occasion. Omer Qureshi (PD, Halal Accreditation Project), Muhammad Sulaiman (Director, PNAC) , Abdus Sami (Deputy Director), and Mufti Abdul Jabbar (Sharia Advisor) conducted the technical awareness sessions. Stakeholders from different departments of AJK Govt, including departments of Food Authority, Agriculture, Industries and Commerce, Planning and Development, and Law department participated in the seminar. After technical session AJK Minister for industries and DG PNAC distributed certificates among the participants.



Remote Conformity Assessment Services

A training session was organized on 10th July 2020, for PNAC Assessors on how to conduct remote assessment under a situation such as Corona Pandemic. Mr. Azhar Iqbal (Quality Manager PNAC) was the resource person. The training also covered IAF MD-04, IAF ID-03, IAF ID-12 and PNAC procedure on remote assessment. Around 79 assessors and experts attended the training session. .



Seminar - Halal Accreditation

FPCCI, Islamabad



Pakistan National Accreditation Council conducted an awareness seminar “Halal Accreditation, A Gateway to International Trade” in collaboration with FPCCI on 9th September 2020. The seminar highlighted the role of PNAC and importance of Halal accreditation. Chaudhry Fawad Hussain, Federal Minister for Science and Technology was the chief guest. Ms. Ismat Gul Khattak (DG, PNAC), Akhtar Bughio (DG, PHA) and Mian Anjum Nisar (President, FPCCI) addressed the audience during the inaugural session and appreciate the efforts of PNAC for raising awareness among the stakeholders.

During the technical session, Omar Quereshi (Project Director, PNAC), Abdus Sami (Deputy Director, PNAC) and Farooq Azam Khan (Deputy Director, PNAC) covered different aspects of Halal Accreditation. All relevant stakeholders from regulatory, certification bodies, and industries professionals from different market segments attended the seminar.



Seminar- Accreditation of Medical Labs and Healthcare Facilities

Mukhtar A .Sheikh Hospital Multan



PNAC held a one day seminar on 8th September 2020, in Multan in coordination with Mukhtar A Sheikh Hospital on the accreditation of healthcare facilities. Mr. Irfan Khan CEO of the Hospital expressed his gratitude and shown keen interest towards accreditation of MASH Multan from PNAC.



Dr. Aneela Darbar, Medical Director at Mukhtar A. Sheikh Hospital, gave welcome speech. Mr. Mohsin Hanif (Deputy Director, PNAC) spoke on the importance of accreditation and its role in improving Healthcare sector of the country. Dr. Sarfraz (Project Director, PNAC) gave an overview of the accreditation requirements for ISO 15189:2012 and Pakistan Hospital Standards.

Seminar- Accreditation of Medical Labs and Healthcare Facilities

MTI Bacha Khan Medical College, Mardan

PNAC in collaboration with MTI Bacha Khan Medical College, held a one day awareness seminar on 20th September 2020, in Mardan. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Fazil (Dean and CEO MTI BKMC) expressed his gratitude to the PNAC team for organizing an extremely beneficial awareness seminar. During her address Ms. Ismat Gul Khattak (DG, PNAC) highlighted the importance of accreditation of healthcare facilities as per national and international standards.



Honourable member BoG Mr Tahir Ali Khan joined the session via video link from Islamabad. Dr. Muhammad Sarfraz (Project Director, PNAC) and Mohsin Hanif (Deputy Director, PNAC) conducted technical sessions to cover the requirements of the accreditation standards and highlighted the importance of accreditation in improving quality of healthcare facilities.



Assessors Training Course

Islamabad



PNAC conducted five days Assessor Training Course in Islamabad from 14th till 18th September 2020, for ISO 5189:2012. Healthcare professionals from all over Pakistan and abroad registered for it. This training is designed for health professionals enabling them to gain knowledge of the particular requirements for quality & competence for medical labs, as defined in ISO 15189: 2012 & used as the criteria for accreditation. Five days course allows participants to develop practical understanding of the assessment methodology used by a Pakistan National Accreditation Council through lectures, exercises, role play and 3 hrs exam at the end. Interactive sessions during training enables professionals to build capability to initiate and spearhead the Implementation of ISO 15189 in medical laboratories.

Seminar - Halal Accreditation

PCSIR, Peshawar

Under the auspices Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and industries and PCSIR Peshawar, an awareness seminar titled 'Halal Accreditation; A Gateway to International Trade' was organized on 22th September 2020. Senator Mr. Haji Gulam Ali Khan (Vice President SAARC Chamber) was the Chief guest.

Speaking at the event, Ms. Ismat Gul Khattak (DG-PNAC) highlighted the importance of halal accreditation. Dr. Israr (Secretary Agriculture) and Mr. Fareed Ullah Khan Khattak (DG PCSIR), and Maulana Sayedul Arifeen (Sharia Advisor) also addressed the audience. Stakeholders from Regulatory Bodies, Certification Bodies, Industries professionals from versatile market segments participated in the seminar



What PNAC can do for you !



Accreditation from Pakistan's national accreditation body i.e. PNAC provides peace of mind and assurance to both business and consumers that the products and services they are using in daily life have been verified by conformity assessment bodies against national and international standards. The ongoing work of the IAF and ILAC as the appointed authorities to which accreditation bodies comply, provides additional reassurance and confidence that transcends frontiers and the subsequent acceptance of accredited certification in multiple markets, based on one accreditation. With confidence in the conformity assessment process underpinned by accreditation, standards can be used to support a lighter lower monitoring to regulation, which in turn means that businesses spend less time tied up with bureaucracy. Multilateral arrangements between national accreditation bodies have also helped make accreditation an internationally-recognised 'stamp of approval' to demonstrate compliance against agreed standards and requirements

A NOTE from the Editor -in-Chief

PNAC welcomes you to the first edition of its quarterly newsletter. We hope that you find it useful and informative. In this edition, we have covered main services and activities of PNAC to give its stakeholders an idea of the scope of our work and the efforts being exerted to make PNAC into a world class organization.

We are very grateful for the leadership and vision being provided by the Federal Minister for Science and Technology Chaudary Fawad Hussain and by Director General Pakistan National Accreditation Council Ms. Ismat Gul Khattak.

In case you would like us to cover any topic of interest to you related to PNAC services, kindly reach out to us at ddtraining@pnac.gov.pk

We look forward to a fruitful journey with our stakeholders.



Mohsin Hanif
Deputy Director (PNAC)

Sincerely ,

Mohsin Hanif

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