

HORIZONTAL TASK FORCE ON REMOTE CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES

Background

The topic of remote conformity assessment activities is being discussed in a variety of TICC committees. To address the issues, a TICC-wide Horizontal Task Force is being set up, housed within the Accreditation and Standardization Committee. Membership will be drawn from the following committees: A&SC, PTCC, ILCS, Food and Health, Government Services, and Commodities.

The term remote conformity assessment activities is used here to include audits, evaluations, assessments, inspections, etc.

There are many threads to consider in understanding and reaching a comprehensive view of remote activities and then decide on relevant outcomes.

Questions to consider: How should the issue be addressed? How to best frame the issue? Is a sectorial approach the best way to look at remote activities? Are certificates extensions a good approach? Or are hybrid audits better?

Proposed scope

1. Define the concerns of the TIC sector, in broad terms.
2. Understand the guidance provided by IAF and ILAC. Be aware of other resources.
3. Be clear what we want to address: evaluations by CAB's to their clients and in the various sectors or of CAB's by AB's. Which ones do we want to focus on?
4. Develop a horizontal document summarizing the issues/concerns being faced currently and the approach the TIC sector would prefer to see implemented
 - a. during the covid-19
 - b. in the future, based on lessons being learned now
 - c. as relevant, highlight the specific position of a sectorial committee or a business vertical in order to preserve TIC interests
5. Determine how best and to whom to convey the TICC recommendations. (e.g. IAF, ILAC, EA, GFSI, individual AB's)

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