



A Brief Introduction to the Nigeria National Accreditation Service (NiNAS)

NiNAS is the Nigerian national accreditation body that provides a variety of accreditation services to Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) in accordance with standards published by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). NiNAS is an associate member of the African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC).

Mission

The objective of NiNAS is to attest the competence and impartiality of CABs according to international standards, in order to monitor and improve the quality and reliability of their outputs, thus promoting competitiveness, trade, health, safety and protection of the environment.

Services offered by NiNAS

NiNAS provides a variety of accreditation services to CABs in accordance with ISO standards. In the first implementation phase, NiNAS will offer accreditation services to testing and calibration laboratories and assess whether they are technically competent, impartial and capable of performing their tasks in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025. In future, the services are likely to be extended to medical laboratories, product certification bodies, inspection bodies as well as management system and personal certification bodies.

NiNAS is a Nigerian accreditation body. This makes NiNAS more accessible and cost-effective than overseas accreditation bodies.

CAB	Standard	Status
Testing Laboratories	ISO/IEC 17025	Available
Calibration Laboratories	ISO/IEC 17025	Available
Medical Testing Laboratories	ISO 15189	Future
Product Certification Bodies	ISO/IEC 17065	Future
Inspection Bodies	ISO/IEC 17020	Future
Management System Cert. Bodies	ISO/IEC 17021	Future
Personal Certification Bodies	ISO 17024	Future
Proficiency Test Providers	ISO/IEC 17043	Future

Accreditation Process

In order to achieve accreditation, CABs must demonstrate that they have the necessary competence to perform specific tasks. NiNAS will assess CABs by appointing a team of technical assessors who will conduct a thorough evaluation, by reviewing documents and performing audits onsite. Accreditation is granted when the CAB demonstrates that it fully meets the requirements of the relevant standards. Once accredited, a CAB receive a certificate and must be reassessed regularly to ensure continued compliance.



Background

NiNAS was established in 2015, within the framework of the EU-funded National Quality Infrastructure Project for Nigeria (NQIP), implemented by UNIDO. The project aims to support the improvement of missing standards and quality control bodies in Nigeria, with the objective of improving the competitiveness of Nigerian goods and services domestically and abroad.