



Your ref: ICASA Notice 751
Our ref: SABS CoC Programs
Enquiries: wto@sabs.co.za
Date: 2022-05-11

Member of the World Trade Organisation

SABS COC PROGRAM SCHEMES IN LINE WITH
ICASA GENERAL NOTICE 751 OF 2021

The purpose of this submission is to brief Members of the Organization (WTO) on the introduction of the new South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) International Laboratory Accreditation Co-operation (ILAC)-Lab Scheme, as well as the restructured existing A-Lab Scheme in line with the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) GENERAL NOTICE 751 OF 2021, published 03 January 2022.

On the 3rd of June 2016, ICASA and SABS, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that will see both entities collaborate on a revised approach to issuing Certificates of Conformance (CoCs) regarding regulated Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) standards. As a result of this MoU, electronic equipment (non-telecommunication) that falls under the mandate of ICASA will be subjected to a robust conformity assessment procedure to ensure that such products meet the quality requirements as stipulated in the applicable regulation and the standards referenced in the South African National Standards (SANS).

The scheme enables collaboration with local and international accredited EMC testing facilities to ensure a streamlined process without compromising the objectives of the SABS EMC CoC process. This TYPE 3 quality assurance scheme also enables the SABS to visit points of manufacturing, sampling, testing and subsequent verification of products for continuous compliance purposes at a cost.

With ICASA embarking on enforcing the regulation for non-telecommunication products through market surveillance in 2022, it is envisaged that there will be an increase in demand on CoC applications to be processed. A considered risk management process has been followed and this allowed the SABS to develop a second scheme that will enable ILAC affiliates issued test reports to be used to process CoC applications.

Following lists the differentiation of the CoC Scheme programs to which the SABS will be servicing the industry in line with the ICASA GENERAL NOTICE 751 of 2021:

Qualifier	A-Lab Scheme	ILAC Scheme
Test Reports Accepted from Affiliation	Yes	Yes
Lab Evaluation by SABS for Scheme Qualification	Yes	No
Applicable Fees for Scheme Affiliation by SABS	Yes	-
Scheme Cycle Validity	3yrs	-
Marketing of Facilities on A-Lab Schemes on the SABS website	Yes	No
Technical Support & Standard Consultations	Yes	No
Training	Yes	No
Turn Around Time of CoC Issuing	30	60
SABS Authorised Lab Certificate	Yes	No
Issuing of CoC with Cost Variation Implication	No	Yes

SABS would formally like to emphasize changes on the ICASA General Notice of 2021 on communicated scheme turn-around-time:

- The turnaround time of ten (10) working days will be adjusted to thirty (30) working days for applicants falling within SABS A-Lab Scheme – **Point 7 of the Notice, with**
- The turnaround time of thirty (30) working days adjusted to thirty (60) working days for applicants falling within the ILAC Scheme – **Point 7 of the Notice.**

The changes were informed by the service turn-around-times in days: *(thirty (30) for A-Lab Scheme affiliated Labs and up to sixty (60) days for non-affiliated applicants)* is that this is the adequate time that has been tried and tested by the SABS to perform due diligence in verifying test reports as well as the accreditation status and process data of issued test reports by CoC applicants. Currently, SABS is issuing CoCs from A-Lab Scheme affiliates within 30 days. The industry stakeholders are aware of this position, this has been the position since the promulgation of the scheme (more than 5 years ago). In the case of ILAC Scheme facilities that are not listed on the A-Lab Scheme, there is no prior due diligence performed and more administrative work is anticipated. Therefore, there is an adjusted cost implication for issuing CoCs for this scheme.

South Africa sincerely hopes that the presented scheme structures will allow the industry to make informed decisions on which scheme structure to contract with SABS.

We request that enquiries be directed through the WTO structures to allow the SABS to respond accordingly.

Yours faithfully



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