

	Accreditation policy for Norwegian Accreditation		Dok.id.:D00754
			Policy/prosedyre
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1 Mission

Norwegian Accreditation (NA) is Norway's national accreditation body for technical accreditation, and is established as a governmental body in accordance with EU regulation 765. NA is the sole accreditation body for technical accreditation in Norway. In addition, NA has been given the responsibility for inspections in accordance with OECD's principles for Good Laboratory Practice (GLP). NA reports to the Ministry of Trade and Fisheries (NFD), Department for Trade Policies. All GLP-inspections and accreditation assessments are carried out against the agreed international standards for accreditation/ GLP inspection of the different types of conformity assessment bodies.

As a governmental body, NA receives the annual Letter of Award from the Ministry of Trade and Fisheries (NFD). In this letter, the mission and accompanying objectives and indicators are specified.

NA ensures that we comply with the mission and the objectives by

- actively working in accordance with our current strategy
- development and follow-up of annual action plans
- efficient and targeted use of resources
- participation in the European and international cooperation on accreditation, seeking to influence the work in accordance with national interests
- establishment of processes which ensure independent and impartial handling of applicants and accredited conformity assessment bodies

The Ministry (NFD) is made aware of significant deviations from the objectives and action plans.

2 Financing

NA is financed by fees for accreditation and GLP services and a net allocation grant from government. The fees charged for NA's services are described in the "Regulation for fees for Norwegian Accreditation's services" which is approved by the Ministry (NFD). Costs incurred in connection with handling of/ maintenance of individual accredited conformity assessment bodies are invoiced to the accredited/applicant entities. The net allocation grant is intended to cover costs related to participation in international cooperation, maintenance of accreditation schemes and communication services. NA is, like other governmental bodies, audited annually by the Auditor General.

3 International recognition

As a national accreditation body NA shall cover the need for accreditation services in Norway. NA aims to establish any accreditation scheme for which Norwegian CABs indicate a need and to ensure national and international acceptance by signing EA's multilateral agreements of mutual recognition. As a consequence, NA is peer evaluated by EA every four years, as a minimum. International recognition is also achieved through membership in the international cooperation organizations for accreditation, The International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF). NA is also evaluated by OECD for GLP and FALB for EMAS.

4 Accreditation within and outside Norway (Cross frontier)

NA accepts and handles applications for accreditation from CABs which are established in Norway and are registered in the Norwegian Company Register (Brønnøysundregisteret). This means that CABs established in Norway and which complies with the relevant accreditation requirements may be accredited by NA. Applications received from CABs established in countries which have a national accreditation body which is a signatory to EA's multilateral recognition agreements are referred to their national accreditation body. EA's cross frontier policy shall always be respected (EA-2/13).

Applications received from CABs established in countries outside EA's region are as a rule not accepted/ handled. This is due to lack of resources for such activities. NA may still accept such applications should there be a clear need for an NA accreditation, i.e. in a situation where the CAB is a daughter company of an NA accredited CAB in Norway or if Norway is the main market for the applicants services. In case such applications are accepted, NA will comply with the policies and guidelines of ILAC and IAF.

5 National regulation for handling of complaints against accreditation decisions

As a governmental body, NA is governed by applicable national laws. This means that handling of applications and other case handling shall be done in compliance with the Public Administration Act, EU regulation 765, Regulation for financial management in governmental bodies and the Public Access to information Act.

NA has been granted exemption from the Public Administration Act for decisions on accreditation (granting, extension, renewal, reduction, suspension and withdrawal). This is done to enable NA to work in compliance with the international standard ISO/IEC 17011. In practice this means that decisions on accreditation cannot be referred to a higher level in the governmental administration which is what the Public Administration Act stipulates. Complaints on accreditation decisions are referred to NA's Complaints Board before NA makes a final decision.

Complaints on issues other than accreditation decisions are handled in accordance with the Public Administration Act. Examples of such complaints may be complaints on non-conformities raised during assessments, performance of the assessment team etc.

6 Follow-up of accredited CABs

In 2020 NA has implemented a risk based approach for deciding on the level of/ plans for follow-up of accredited CABs during the accreditation period (the 5-year plans). This approach is described in a separate document.