

JAB ACTIVITIES

— WHAT IS CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT? —



JAB

The Japan Accreditation Board for Conformity Assessment

JAB CHARTER

In today's society, suppliers of goods and services are required to meet not only the explicit requirements of customers, but also to ensure that their products and services are safe and do not pose any risk to the health of users, consumers or the general public. Furthermore, they must take into consideration environmental conservation and promote fair economic behavior.

In order to meet these requirements, it is essential that processes, products and services, and the effects of various economic activities are correctly and objectively assessed (conformity assessment). It is imperative that society has confidence in schemes for conformity assessment. The mission of an accreditation body is to verify and evaluate, with impartiality and fairness, the competence of bodies providing conformity assessment services.

In Japan, The Japan Accreditation Board for Conformity Assessment (JAB) was established by the private sector as the central body to ensure the competence of third-party conformity assessment schemes (hereinafter referred to as "the SCHEMES"). In order to fulfill this mission, JAB will operate in accordance with the following Charter:

The executives, employees, accreditation assessors, committee members, and other persons acting for or on behalf of JAB shall:

- (1) always remember that the SCHEMES are important constituents of the social foundation that supports public safety and health, environmental conservation and fair economic practice in Japan;
- (2) give top priority to the benefit of society as the true customer of the SCHEMES, and think and act for and in the interests of society as a whole;
- (3) think and act in a fair and impartial manner, exclude undue influence from others, remain independent, and in all their activities, endeavor to ensure transparency and achieve accountability;
- (4) endeavor to consult widely with society in general, avoid any pre-conceptions or assumptions not based on fact, make it a principle to be cooperative, to act innovatively and through their professionalism seek to demonstrate best practice;
- (5) act at all times in a manner befitting the role of JAB as the peak body of the SCHEMES and, as a group of professionals with broad knowledge and experience, endeavor to enhance their capability and act in good faith;
- (6) in all activities, comply with laws and ordinances; and
- (7) endeavor to ensure consistency with international standards, and comply with international standards.

End of Charter.

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I. CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

1. What is conformity assessment?

According to the definition in ISO/IEC 17000:2004 (JIS Q 17000:2005), “Conformity assessment – Vocabulary and general principles”, “conformity assessment” is the “demonstration that specified requirements relating to a product, process, system, person or body are fulfilled”. “Specified requirements” means the “need or expectation that is stated”. Conformity assessment therefore demonstrates that the needs and expectations of individuals and society in general are satisfied and thereby provides value to society. Conformity assessment includes activities such as testing, inspection and certification¹ as well as the accreditation of conformity assessment bodies (CABs) that provide these conformity assessment services.

Conformity assessment activities consist of:

- assessment performed by the person or organization that is the object of assessment (first-party conformity assessment activities)
- assessment performed by a person or organization that has a user-interest in the object (second-party conformity assessment activities)
- assessment performed by a person or organization that is independent of the person or organization that is the object of the assessment and of user-interests (third-party conformity assessment activity).

¹ “Certification” includes product certification, management system certification and personnel certification.

Table 1 Conformity assessment criteria

Object of Conformity Assessment	Conformity Criteria for the Object of Conformity Assessment	Conformity Assessment Body (CAB)	Conformity Criteria for CABs	Conformity Criteria for the Body Granting Accreditation to CABs
Management system of the organization	Management standards such as ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO/IEC 27001, ISO 22000	Certification body of management systems	ISO/IEC 17021 (Note 1) ISO/IEC Guide 62, Guide 66 ISO/IEC 27006 ISO/TS 22003	ISO/IEC 17011 (Note 7)
Personnel (competence of personnel)	Standards defining various competences	Personnel certification body	ISO/IEC 17024 (Note 2)	
Product	Standards of various product specifications	Product certification body	ISO/IEC Guide 65 (Note 3)	
Testing/calibration	Standards of various testing or calibration methods	Testing and calibration laboratory Medical laboratory	ISO/IEC 17025 (Note 4) ISO 15189 (Note 5)	
Equipment/Instruments (incl. those in use)	Standards of various inspection methods	Inspection body	ISO/IEC 17020 (Note 6)	
Self-declaration of conformity	Standards of various products and testing methods	—	ISO/IEC 17050 (Note 8)	—

Note 1:ISO/IEC 17021:2006 (JIS Q 17021:2007) Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems

ISO/IEC 17021, which also covers certification bodies providing certification of other management systems, was published in September 2006 to replace ISO/IEC Guide 62 and Guide 66. The JIS version was published in July 2007. It was agreed at a meeting of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) that the transition period to ISO/IEC 17021 shall be two years from its publication

ISO/IEC Guide 62:1996 (JIS Z 9362:1996) General requirements for bodies operating assessment and certification/registration of quality systems

ISO/IEC Guide 66:1999 (JIS Q 0066:2000) General requirements for bodies operating assessment and certification/registration of environmental management systems

ISO/IEC 27006:2007 Information technology – Security techniques – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of information security management systems

ISO/TS 22003:2007 Food safety management systems – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of food safety management systems

Note 2:ISO/IEC 17024:2003 (JIS Q 17024:2004) Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons

Note 3:ISO/IEC Guide 65:1996 (JIS Q 0065:1997) General requirements for bodies operating product certification systems

Note 4:ISO/IEC 17025:2005 (JIS Q 17025:2005) General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories

Note 5:ISO 15189:2007 Medical laboratories – Particular requirements for quality and competence

Note 6:ISO/IEC 17020:1998 (JIS Q 17020:2000) General requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection

Note 7:ISO/IEC 17011:2004 (JIS Q 17011:2005) Conformity assessment – General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies

Note 8:ISO/IEC 17050-1/2:2004 (JIS Q 17050-1/2:2005) Conformity assessment – Supplier’s declaration of conformity – Part 1: General requirements, Part 2: Supporting documentation

2. What is accreditation?

“Accreditation” means third-party attestation related to a conformity assessment body, conveying formal demonstration of its competence to carry out specific conformity assessment tasks. A body that performs this third-party attestation is called an accreditation body. Accreditation is a type of conformity assessment, but accreditation bodies are not considered to be conformity assessment bodies (CABs). This is because third-party attestation, by its nature, requires accreditation bodies to carry out their conformity assessment tasks independently of the CABs they accredit.

Accreditation bodies play the important role of an independent third-party assessing and confirming that a conformity assessment body has demonstrated its competence and of publishing details of accredited CABs.

3. International criteria for conformity assessment

If the criteria for the accreditation of conformity assessment bodies differ among countries, it is not possible to accept the results of conformity assessment carried out in a foreign country as equivalent to that in one’s own country. It is necessary to have international criteria common to all countries.

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) issue international criteria and guides describing the requirements that conformity assessment bodies and accreditation bodies should satisfy as an organization, and the procedures for undertaking conformity assessment (see **Table 1**). These international criteria are examined by the ISO Committee for Conformity Assessment (CASCO) and published as international standards.

4. Framework for international conformity assessment

The WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement), signed by countries and economies that are members of the World Trade Organization (WTO), recognizes that conformity assessment systems contribute greatly to the promotion of international trade. The TBT Agreement encourages “respect for international standards” and “implementation of systems for international conformity assessment”. International accreditation systems and procedures ensure that the bodies carrying out the conformity assessment are competent and the results can be trusted. This means that conformity assessment

results (test and inspection reports and conformance certificates) issued by accredited CABs can be accepted across borders. Most countries around the world have now established a conformity assessment framework based on international standards and procedures.

- (1) Following the establishment of international criteria for conformity assessment and agreed requirements for conformity assessment bodies, each country adopts them as national standards.
- (2) The international criteria for accreditation and the requirements for the operation of accreditation bodies are also adopted by each country and published as national standards.
- (3) Accreditation bodies assess whether or not the procedures of conformity assessment bodies comply with international criteria.
- (4) Accreditation bodies evaluate and monitor each other and assess whether or not the procedures of accreditation bodies and accreditation assessment comply with international criteria and provide an equivalent assurance of competence. Accreditation bodies that satisfy these criteria enter into Multilateral / Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MLAs/MRAs).
- (5) If a government agency in an individual country requires conformity assessment to enforce mandatory regulations under a government-to-government Mutual Recognition Agreement, the results of the accredited conformity assessment are used after due legal process.

5. Accreditation criteria of JAB

What are the criteria?

These documents describe the requirements that conformity assessment bodies must satisfy in order to achieve accreditation. JAB applies, as its accreditation criteria, the international standards related to conformity assessment published by ISO/CASCO (ISO Committee for Conformity Assessment). These have been translated and adopted as JIS standards, without amendment.

What are procedures?

These documents describe the procedures that apply to conformity assessment bodies in order to receive an assessment by an accreditation body and to gain accreditation. JAB’s accreditation procedures provide details of the procedures JAB follows to ensure that the international standards, as published in Japanese by JIS, are complied with.

What are guidance documents?

These documents provide guidance on how the accreditation criteria should be applied. The objective of this guidance is to ensure consistency in the application of the criteria and to explain the requirements that must be met when an accreditation body undertakes assessment of conformity assessment bodies. As a member of the international groupings of accreditation bodies, IAF (International Accreditation Forum, Inc.) and ILAC (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation),

JAB has adopted the guidance documents published by these organizations, without amendment. This does not, however, preclude cases where it is necessary for JAB to establish guidance documents in its own right.

The accreditation criteria used by JAB may be viewed and/or downloaded from the JAB website free of charge. Up-to-date information on accredited CABs and the registrations/certifications issued by these CABs are also published on the website.
(<http://www.jab.or.jp>)

II. ACCREDITATION SERVICES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF MANAGEMENT SYSTEM CERTIFICATION BODIES

1. What is the accreditation scheme for management system certification bodies?

What is certification?

“Certification” is the assessment and attestation by a third-party that products, processes, systems or persons are in conformity with the requirements of a particular standard. Management system certification is also called management system registration.

Management system certification schemes

Management system certification bodies undertake independent, third-party audits to establish whether or not the management system of an organization or company satisfies the requirements of a given management system standard.

Well known systems standards include ISO 9001 for quality management systems, ISO 14001 for environmental management systems and ISO/IEC 27001 for information security management systems. If the system is assessed as being in conformity with the standard, the organization concerned is certified. The list of organizations certified by JAB-accredited certification bodies is publicly available on the JAB website. These schemes are called “management system certification schemes”.

Relationship between management system certification schemes and accreditation activities

If an organization has a management system that is certified as complying with an internationally recognized standard, users, consumers and regulatory authorities, are

assured that the management system of the organization is effective and that the goods and services it produces will be of consistent quality and meet customer requirements. It is important that management system certification bodies themselves maintain public confidence in certification and can demonstrate their competence to carry out their certification activities.

JAB assesses the competence of management system certification bodies against the international conformity assessment standard ISO/IEC 17021². If the certification body is assessed as being in conformity with the standard, including having competent auditors, JAB grants accreditation and this is published in the JAB directory of accredited certification bodies (available on the JAB website). By assessing and confirming the competence of certification bodies, JAB provides confidence both within Japan and abroad in the certification results presented by accredited management system certification bodies (see Figure 1).

2. Background to the establishment of management system certification schemes

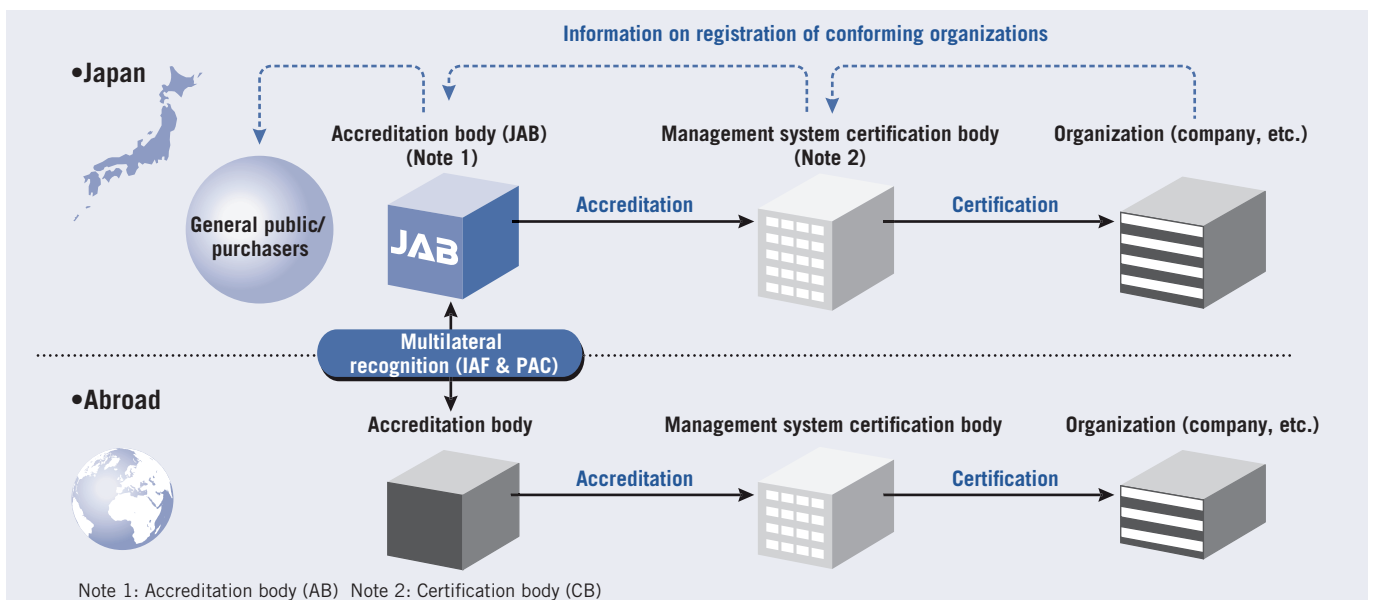
(1) Quality management system (QMS) certification

History of quality management system standards

After World War II, an office in charge of procurement at the U.S. Department of Defense established a specification for product quality management systems as a U.S. DoD standard (MIL Q 9858). This covered the process of manufacture, in addition to the technical specifications

² ISO/IEC 17021: 2006 is an integrated standard that has replaced ISO/IEC Guide 62 and ISO/IEC Guide 66.

Figure 1 Management system certification schemes and the functions of JAB



for the product, in order to ensure that the organization would supply products of consistent quality. Based on this standard, quality management system auditing of organizations was added to the procurement systems of U.S. forces. This triggered the introduction of quality management system audit of organizations, a practice that gradually spread among purchasers in the private sector as well.

During the latter half of the 1970s, purchasers in the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Canada and other countries, became concerned to ensure the quality of industrial products, particularly those that were technically complex, high performance or expensive. Industry recognized that to win confidence, “suppliers should provide products that meet requested specifications”, that quality management and quality assurance was important. This led to the establishment of national standards for quality assurance and to the practice of quality management system audit.

In 1976, the ISO set up a Technical Committee, TC 176, for a quality assurance standards, and thus began activities for the development of quality management and quality assurance standards. By 1982, deliberations had begun based on the then American standard ANSI Z1.15 and the British standard BS 5750. This resulted in the publication, in 1987, of a family of international standards, ISO 9001, 9002 and 9003, that were modeled on BS 5750.

ISO 9001, 9002 and 9003 were limited and mainly covered manufacturing, due to the perception that quality concerned only the quality of a “physical object”, i.e. the quality of products manufactured by manufacturers.

ISO standards share the principle of a five-yearly Review. The first review of ISO 9001, 9002 and 9003 was completed in 1994, when the standards underwent minor revisions.

In the second revision, in December 2000, “product” was redefined to also cover services. The 2000 version also changed “quality system” to “quality management system” (QMS) and the importance of management was advanced, resulting in a change in the title of the standard to “Quality management systems – Requirements”. The former three standards ISO 9001, 9002 and 9003 were combined into one international standard for quality management systems, ISO 9001: 2000.

In December 2008, it is planned that this standard will be re-issued, with revisions limited to corrections of ambiguous points and modifications to wording. A full

revision is scheduled for mid-2010, in conjunction with a full revision of the environmental management system standard, ISO 14001.

Background to creating a third-party certification scheme for quality management systems

During the first half of the 1980s, in the governments of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom introduced the concept of accreditation of certification bodies, in order to strengthen the quality assurance and competitiveness of their industries and products. Accreditation schemes were designed to foster confidence among purchasers of products and services that third party certification bodies were competent to undertake quality system audits and that the certificates could be relied on. Publication of the directory of certified companies and organizations ensured that users and consumers could select suppliers with quality management systems certified to international standards recognized in their own country and within the European region.

The establishment of the European Single Market in 1992 triggered the worldwide spread of quality management system certification under ISO 9001. A key component of European economic integration was the need to remove trade barriers within the European market and to eliminate mutual distrust that existed among countries where the maturity of the industry and technical levels differed. Certification of quality management systems against international standards, and the accreditation of certification bodies, was useful in establishing the equivalence of quality assurance throughout Europe. Due to the fact that purchasers of products required suppliers to have third-party certification of their quality management system, the dissemination of this scheme was not limited to Europe, but extended beyond to involve non-member countries that exported products to the EU.

The reason for such high interest in ISO 9001 is considered attributable to the fact that it is an international standard that is recognized worldwide, and to the existence of certification bodies with demonstrated competence to assess the conformity of organizations’ quality management systems against this standard. Accreditation services underpin this certification scheme by assessing management system certification bodies and confirming that they are competent to undertake certification activities.

Sector standards

As ISO 9001 became widely established, it became apparent that the standard was too broad to cover characteristics specific to individual industrial sectors, particularly in high risk industries, and purchasers identified a need for industry-specific requirements, although still within the broad framework of ISO 9001. In order to respond to these expressed needs, international standards describing requirements additional to ISO 9001 and specific to particular industries were developed. These standards are generically called sector standards. Examples are JIS Q 9100 for aerospace, JIS Q 13485 for medical devices, and TL 9000 for telecommunications. These standards are based on ISO 9001, but also contain requirements relevant to the specific industry sector.

JIS Q 9100 (aerospace):

The aerospace industrial circle in Europe and America proposed, in a general assembly of ISO/TC 20, the drafting of an aerospace quality management system standard with additional requirements specific to the industry, while still maintaining those of ISO 9001:1994. In 1999, TC 20 Working Group 11 agreed on the final draft. The IAQG (International Aerospace Quality Group), set up in 1998 with the participation of almost all aircraft and aeronautical engine manufacturers in the world, developed IAQS 9100. Rather than issue this as a single standard commonly applicable worldwide, the IAQG adopted a format whereby each region issued a standard with identical contents and standard numbering. Thus, SAE AS 9100 was issued in the Americas, AECMA EN 9100 in Europe and SJAC 9100 (JIS Q 9100:2000) in Japan. This Japanese standard for the aerospace industry, first issued in December 1999, was later revised to become JIS Q 9100:2004, bringing it into line with the 2000 version of ISO 9001.

JIS Q 13485 (medical devices):

There was international recognition that, when applying ISO 9001 to organizations manufacturing medical devices that were directly related to human lives and health, additional requirements for quality management and assurance were needed. In order to ensure international harmonization of the quality system for medical devices, ISO 13485 and ISO 13488 (JIS Q 13485 and JIS Q 13488:1998) were published in December 1996. In July 2003, in order to ensure consistency with ISO 9001:2000, these standards were revised and integrated to become ISO 13485:2003 (JIS Q 13485:2005). The

2003 revision proposes its use for regulatory purposes in each country around the world. The introduction states that the standard applies not only to regulatory auditing, but also for use by external bodies for audit, including certification bodies. This enables private sector voluntary certification/accreditation schemes to contribute to facilitating multilateral recognition arrangements and international trade in this specialized equipment.

TL 9000 (telecommunications):

The international telecommunications industry developed TL 9000 after taking into consideration the requirements of ISO 9001, plus various quality standards that already existed in the telecommunications industry. TL 9000 is controlled by the QuEST Forum (Quality Excellence for Suppliers of Telecommunications), whose principal members are telecommunications service providers and manufacturers.

(2) Environmental management system (EMS) certification

With mounting interest in environmental issues on a global scale, and following the Brundtland Report on Sustainable Development in 1987, the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) established the "Business Charter for Sustainable Development" in 1991, proclaiming that the business world had a major responsibility to protect the global environment. In Japan, the Japan Federation of Economic Organizations established a "Global Environmental Charter" in 1991, embracing the same principles. In 1992, the Earth Summit was convened in Rio de Janeiro to discuss the issue of sustainable development. The Summit adopted the "Rio Declaration on Environment and Development" that promoted sustainable development under 27 basic principles. An action plan for global regeneration, entitled "Agenda 21" was also agreed on.

Against this background, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), an organization set up at the request of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and which hosted the 1992 Earth Summit, requested the ISO to undertake development of international standards for environmental management. ISO and IEC jointly organized a Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on the environment and initiated preliminary studies, resulting in the establishment of an ISO Technical Committee, TC 207, in February 1993. ISO 14001, which was published by ISO/TC 207 in 1996, is the standard that applies

when developing an environmental management system (EMS). ISO 14001 promotes continuous improvements in environmental performance, such as reducing the environmental burden arising from the activities, products and services undertaken by organizations.

Just before ISO/TC 207 began to deliberate the subject, the EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme of the EU) was promulgated. In 1992, the United Kingdom, published for a standard for environmental management systems, BS 7750, and accreditation bodies in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Australia and New Zealand launched environmental management system certification schemes. Since the publication of ISO 14001 in 1996, a substantial number of countries around the world have implemented certification schemes based on ISO 14001, just as they did for the certification schemes of the ISO 9000 family of standards. In 2004, the standard was revised, with the aim of clarifying its requirements and to enhance compatibility with ISO 9001:2000, and it was re-issued as ISO 14001:2004. The ISO is now developing a new standard in the ISO 14000 family, ISO 14005, which is an EMS standard for small and medium-sized companies. JAB is participating as an observer in the meetings of the working group for this new standard. In April 2007, the ISO published ISO 14065, covering greenhouse gas emissions. JAB is also participating in the working group preparing an IAF guidance document for this standard. Environmental management standards are becoming ever more diverse, and JAB will ensure its accreditation scheme for environmental management certification bodies remains current by keeping in close contact with developments as they progress.

(3) Information security management system (ISMS) certification

Information security is defined as “to protect information from various threats, ensure continuity of business, minimize any loss to business, and maximize the return on investment and business opportunities”. With the sophistication of the information society, information possessed by organizations has come to be clearly recognized as “assets”. On the other hand, reflecting the globalization of businesses in recent years and the increasing use of information and telecommunications technology by the public, the information assets of organizations are always exposed to threats such as hardware/software failure, corruption by unauthorized access, leakage by interested parties, and so forth. Damage or loss caused

by accidents related to information assets has grown to such a size that it imperils the business continuity of some organizations. Organizations must utilize their information assets effectively while protecting them adequately from these threats.

The objectives of an Information Security Management System (ISMS) are to establish a system to protect information assets from such threats and to continuously secure and preserve the confidentiality, integrity and availability of such information. In other words, it is necessary, with respect to information assets that the organization needs to protect, that the ISMS is maintained and improved as appropriate to the level of risk. Confidentiality, integrity and availability need to be in kept in balance; as well as managing risk, an ISMS enhances the usability and value of information if it is implemented effectively and efficiently as a management system.

ISO/IEC 27001, which describes the requirements for an ISMS, was published in October 2005. Certification bodies use this standard as the certification criteria for ISMS. The Japanese version of the standard is JIS Q 27001. An associated standard, ISO/IEC 27006, was published in March 2007 and provides the accreditation criteria for ISMS certification bodies. JAB started to offer accreditation services to ISMS certification bodies in July 2006. JAB will improve this accreditation scheme to become one that is consistent with the fields of QMS and EMS and will contribute to the improvement of management system certification schemes.

(4) IT service management system (ITSMS) certification

IT service management system (ITSMS) certification concerns the operational control of IT services based on ISO/IEC 20000-1 (Information technology – Service management – Part 1: Specifications).

ISO/IEC 20000 is based on the British standard BS 15000 and was published in two parts, Part 1 and Part 2, in December 2005. The corresponding Japanese standard, JIS Q 20000, was published in April 2007. For operators providing IT services, Part 1 describes the specifications for providing IT services effectively and efficiently, while Part 2 describes the code of practice.

From May 2007, JAB commenced a pilot program in preparation for the official launch of an accreditation scheme for ITSMS certification bodies. Transition to formal accreditation is planned for April 2008.

(5) Food safety management system (FSMS) certification

ISO 22000 describes the “Food safety management systems – Requirements for any organization in the food chain”, and is a standard that embodies Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) systems in a management system. This standard applies to organizations across a wide range of food related operations, from food harvesters and processors to feedstuff, transportation, storage, wholesale and restaurants. The HACCP system is a system concerning the hygienic management of food and was developed in the 1960s in USA to ensure the safety of food provided to the space program. HACCP requires that all critical control points (CCPs) are identified and systems put in place to manage these. This includes all processes from receiving raw materials, through processing, shipment and distribution to final sale. By continually monitoring and recording the CCPs, the system is designed to prevent any contamination or deterioration. The HACCP system assumes that prerequisite programs for hygienic management are implemented, including sanitary supervision of facilities, equipment, machines, and instruments, sanitary handling of food; occupational health control and training of all staff. The HACCP system was published by the Codex Alimentarius

Commission, a joint body of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). It is recognized internationally and has now been adopted by many countries. ISO 22000 was proposed as a new work item in March 2001, was developed by a Working Group 8 within ISO Technical Committee TC34 and was published as an international standard on September 1, 2005. The requirements of the ISO 22000 standard are characterized by:

- (1) Mutual communication (activities must be communicated to all parties)
- (2) System management (to provide assurance based on systems)
- (3) Prerequisite programs (basic conditions necessary to maintain health and safety conditions and to take action as required)
- (4) HACCP (to ensure safety of food based on seven principles and through 12 procedures)

ISO/TS 22003, the accreditation criteria for Food Safety Management System (FSMS) certification bodies, was published in February 2007. JAB started to receive applications for accreditation from May 2007 and in January 2008, the first accreditation of an FSMS certification body was granted.

III. ACCREDITATION SERVICES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF PERSONNEL CERTIFICATION BODIES

1. What is the accreditation scheme for personnel certification bodies?

If an individual person carries out a task that requires special competence, such as welding, it is important that the end-users have assurance that the person doing the work has the appropriate competence and the work can be relied on. Personnel certification is confirmation by a third-party that the person has been assessed by an independent, third-party certification body against technical criteria (e.g. the JIS standard for welding), and that the person is competent to undertake the particular task.

Unless personnel certification is conducted in accordance with international rules or criteria, however, the work undertaken by a person recognized as competent in one country may not be accepted in other countries.

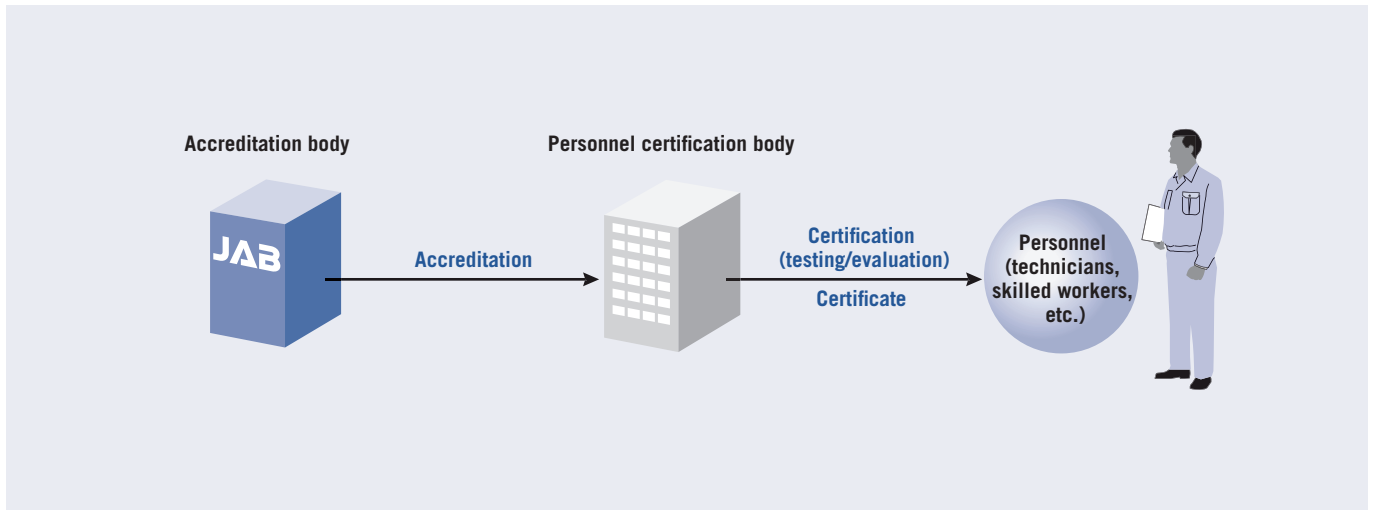
JAB conducts assessments of the evaluation/certification activities undertaken by personnel certification bodies, based on JIS Q 17024, (the Japanese counterpart of ISO/IEC 17024), and grants accreditation to such bodies (see **Figure 2**).

JAB now provides accreditation services to personnel

certification bodies providing certification for the competence of welding engineers/technicians and of management system auditors for QMS and EMS certification schemes. Details of accredited bodies are published on the JAB website. In addition, JAB has now commenced accepting accreditation applications from personnel certification bodies that provide certification of food safety management system auditors. In future, it is expected that accreditation applications from a wider range of personnel certification bodies will be accepted. All personnel accreditations will be based on JIS Q 17024.

The actual scope within which JAB provides accreditation services related to personnel certification is based on specific JIS, ISO or technical criteria described in law. Where there is a reasonable expectation that certification services accredited on the basis of JIS Q 17024 will continue to be provided, JAB will, in principle, consider such certification services as within the scope of accreditation. JAB is now receiving and responding to inquiries about the availability of its personnel accreditation services.

Figure 2 Personnel certification schemes and the functions of JAB



IV. ACCREDITATION SERVICES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ACCREDITATION OF PRODUCT CERTIFICATION BODIES

1. What is accreditation scheme for product certification bodies?

The accreditation scheme for product certification bodies is a scheme whereby an accreditation body undertakes an assessment as to whether or not a product certification body has the competence to evaluate and certify conformity of specific products to relevant product standards and, if affirmative, to grant accreditation. Internationally, ISO/IEC Guide 65 (General requirements for bodies operating product certification systems) is employed as the accreditation criteria.

JAB assesses and accredits product certification bodies within the scope for accreditation stated in the application. More specifically, a product certification body applies for accreditation with the name of the certification system, the type of certification described in JAB P204, the standards or regulations applicable, and the scope defined by ICS codes. JAB assesses the competence and systems of the product certification body, and, if affirmative, grants accreditation to the body (see Figure 3).

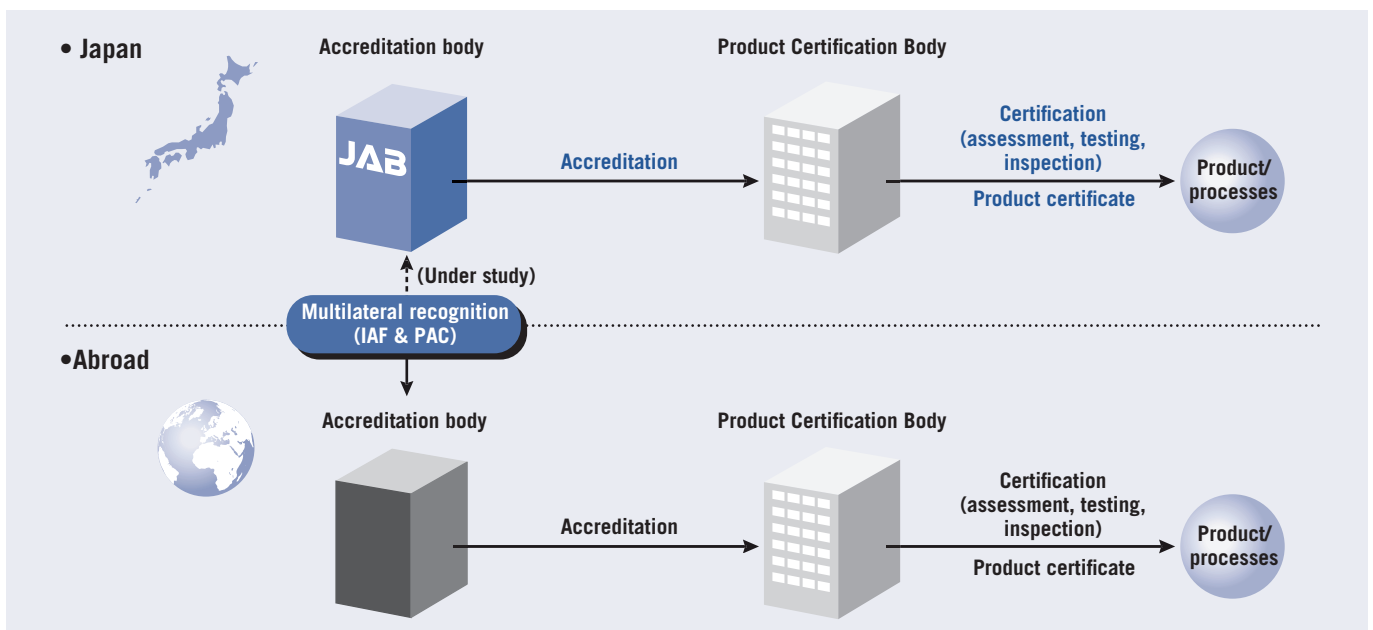
In addition to the requirements of ISO/IEC Guide 65, supplementary criteria may be applied when product certification bodies wish to prove competence to certify specified products.

Competence to perform certification of specified

products means the knowledge and experience of individual persons engaged in certification of the products concerned, and the use of appropriate equipment and evaluation methods. This includes testing, inspection and evaluation of the manufacturing system and processes.

Products that are certified may carry the symbol (logo) of the product certification body. If the certification body is accredited, the product may also carry the symbol of the accreditation body. Certificates with the symbol (logo) of an accreditation body are widely accepted in those countries where the accreditation bodies are signatories to Multilateral Recognition Arrangements. At the 11th PAC General Meeting, held in Seoul in July 2004, the PAC Multilateral Recognition Arrangement for accreditation of product certification bodies was signed by three bodies from four countries (JAS-ANZ of Australia/New Zealand, SCC of Canada and EMA of Mexico). Further studies will be undertaken to promote this Arrangement as part of the IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement, including also the EA MLA Group. JAB has not yet decided on the specifics, such as the timing of application for membership of the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement for product certification, but is studying the issue with the aim of becoming a signatory at an early date.

Figure 3 Product certification schemes and the functions of JAB



2. Current situation of accreditation activities of JAB for product certification bodies

At present, JAB provides accreditation services to product certification bodies undertaking certification of welding for power plant facilities, as well as the bodies undertaking certification of engine generators. Since 2005, JAB has also been providing accreditation services for product certification bodies operating certification of antibiotic and deodorized fabrics.

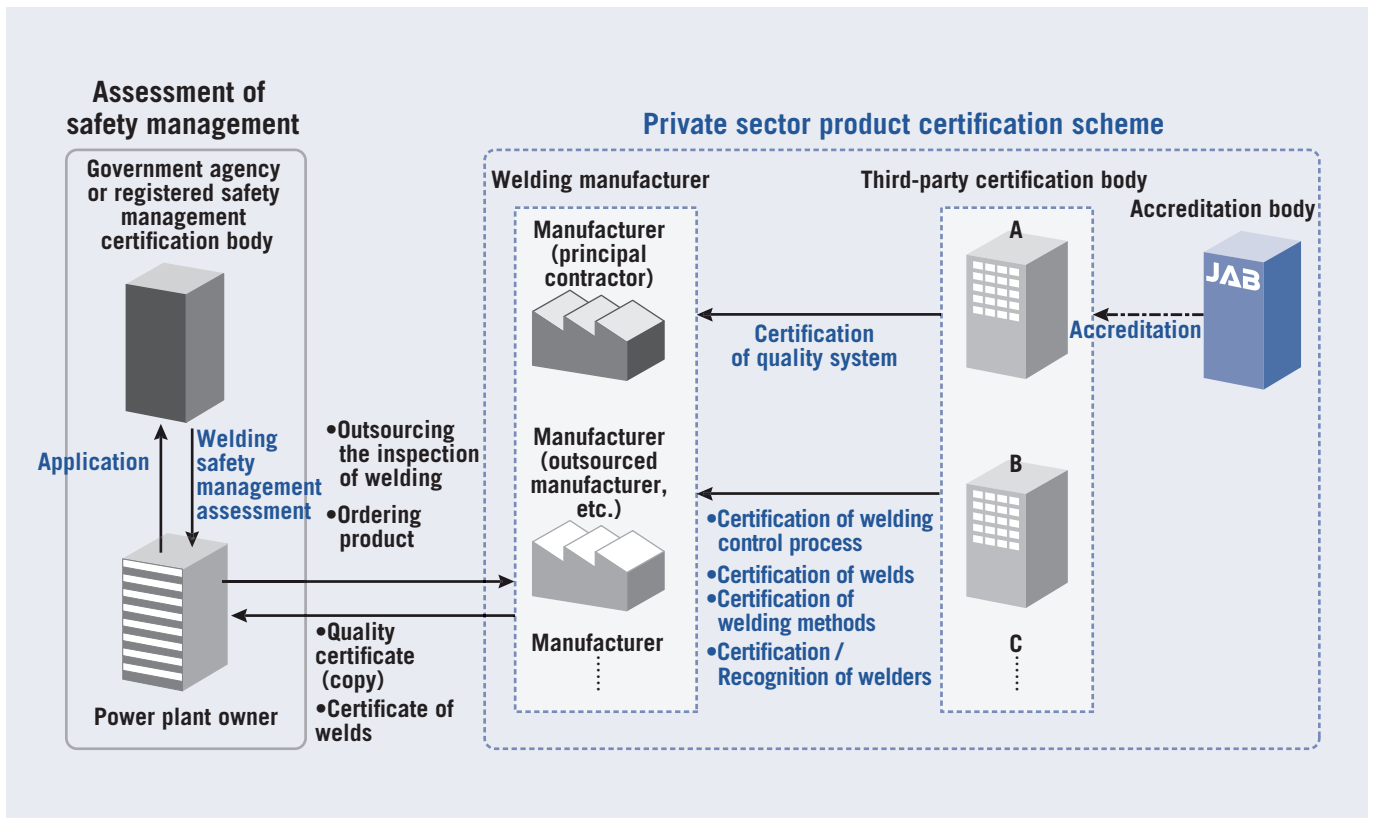
3. Utilization of voluntary product certification in regulated areas

JAB provides an accreditation service under the “Private sector product certification scheme” to product certification bodies operating certification of the inspection of welding (the Electric Utility Law, Article 52) related to

conformity with the “Technical requirements for thermal equipment for power generation” and “Technical requirements for nuclear equipment for power generation”, based on the provisions of Article 39 of the Electric Utility Law. This is the first case in Japan that voluntary product certification, backed up by third-party accreditation system, has been applied in a regulated area (see **Figure 4**). This accreditation service makes it possible to reduce complicated assessment by power plant owners and has a number of advantages, including the enhancement of reliability/transparency at the private sector level and better cost performance.

The certification evaluation includes welding control processes, welding methods, inspection of welds in power plant facilities and assessment of the competence of the individual welder.

Figure 4 Voluntary product certification schemes and functions of JAB in the assessment of welding safety management



V. ACCREDITATION SERVICES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF LABORATORY ACCREDITATION AND INSPECTION BODIES

1. Overview of laboratory accreditation scheme

The first laboratory accreditation scheme was established in 1947 by an Australian private sector body, the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA), Australia. In those days, the quantity and diversity of materials procured by the military grew too extensive for the then existing testing/inspection capacity of public agencies and, with the full support of the national research institute, a laboratory accreditation body was established. The Government outsourced to this body the assessment of the technical capabilities of private sector laboratories against relevant criteria. If laboratories were confirmed to be in compliance, NATA would grant accreditation to them. Laboratories accredited by this laboratory accreditation body were considered equivalent to government laboratories and used by the Government.

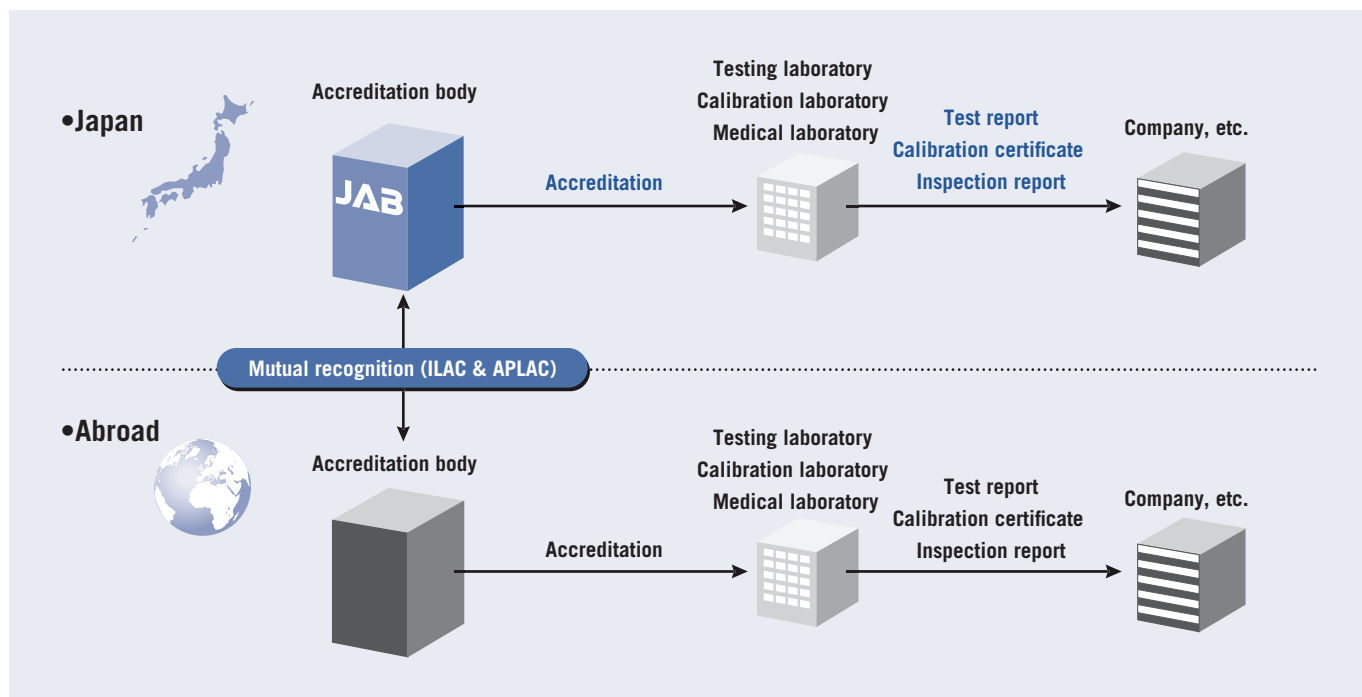
Thereafter, similar laboratory accreditation systems were introduced in the United Kingdom (NAMAS in 1973, whose name later changed to UKAS), in New Zealand (TELARC in 1973, whose name later changed to IANZ), in USA (NVLAP in 1976) and in other European countries. In 1978, ISO/IEC Guide 25 was published. This served as the criteria for assessment of a laboratory's competence to undertake the specific tests listed in its scope of accreditation. ISO/IEC Guide 25

was revised in December 1999 and published as ISO/IEC 17025. Requirements that bodies accrediting laboratories (laboratory accreditation bodies) were required to meet were also published in 1993 as ISO/IEC Guide 58. In 2004, this was replaced by an integrated standard, ISO/IEC 17011, which specifies the criteria that all bodies operating accreditation schemes for conformity assessment bodies must satisfy. JAB operates in accordance with ISO/IEC 17011.

At the time of the integration of the EC market in 1992, most EU member countries already had well-established laboratory accreditation bodies. Under the New Approach to conformity assessment, accredited testing services were seen as an essential part of ensuring the reliability of testing for regulated purposes, including for CE marking. In the EU countries, products tested in one EU member country are accepted in the market of all other EU countries.

The acceptance of accredited test reports across borders is a key principle of the WTO TBT Agreement, in order to eliminate technical barriers to trade and to ensure international consistency. In Japan, following recommendations made by the Accreditation/Certification Subcommittee of the Japan Industrial Standards Committee, a laboratory accreditation scheme was established in 1996.

Figure 5 Laboratory accreditation scheme and the functions of JAB



2. Laboratory and inspection body accreditation scheme and the activities of JAB

(1) Laboratory accreditation scheme

In response to the aforementioned recommendation from the Japanese Industrial Standards Committee, JAB launched a laboratory accreditation scheme in 1996. JAB published laboratory accreditation criteria based on JIS Q 17025 (equivalent to ISO/IEC 17025). Laboratories are assessed against these criteria and conforming parties are accredited/registered. The list of accredited laboratories is made public and is available on the JAB website (see **Figure 5**). Test reports and calibration certificates issued by accredited laboratories are widely accepted throughout the world (except in some regulated sectors).

As of today, the areas for which applications for laboratory accreditation are received are as indicated in **Table 2**. As to accreditation for other areas, please contact JAB for advice as needed.

As of May 2008, the number of JAB accredited testing and calibration laboratories is 242.

JAB also offers an accreditation service to reference material producers.

(2) Medical laboratory accreditation scheme

JAB developed an accreditation program for medical laboratories, based on ISO 15189, jointly with the Japanese Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards (JCCLS), and started offering this accreditation service in August 2005.

ISO 15189 is an international standard based on ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO 9001, but also includes requirements specific to assessing the quality and competence of medical laboratories. It constitutes the basis of the accreditation criteria for the medical laboratory accreditation scheme. As of May 2008, the number of JAB accredited medical laboratories is 36.

JAB has launched a new accreditation program for medical laboratories, Laboratories for Specified Health Checkup, based in ISO 15189. This program, which commenced in October 2007, is similar to the existing medical laboratory accreditation program, but limits the scope of accreditation to specified health checkups.

(3) Inspection body accreditation scheme

JAB started an accreditation service for inspection bodies in April 2005 based on JIS Q 17020 (equivalent to ISO/IEC 17020). The inspection body accreditation scheme is different from the laboratory accreditation scheme in the

following two aspects. Whereas the laboratory accreditation scheme has accreditation criteria based on ISO/IEC 17025, the inspection body accreditation scheme uses ISO/IEC 17020 for its accreditation criteria. Furthermore, in the laboratory accreditation scheme, the objects of accreditation are testing and calibration laboratories, but in the inspection body accreditation scheme, they are inspection bodies.

Table 2 Classification of accreditation scope for testing and calibration laboratories

Laboratories
Chemical tests
•Chemical analysis
•Test measurement method
•Analysis tests by product (metals, food, feedstock, salt, tobacco, resin, water, etc.)
•Environmental analysis (atmosphere, water quality, soil, dioxin, indoor air, etc.)
•Analysis of toxic substances
Mechanical/physical tests
•Metals test
•Organic polymeric material test
•Inorganic material test
•Soil test
Electrical tests
•Measurement of electromagnetic quantity
•High voltage test
•High power test
•Electric/electronic product environmental test
•Electromagnetic compatibility test
Firefighting equipment tests
Ship fire tests
Nondestructive tests
Calibration bodies
Electromagnetic volume (DC, low frequency wave)
Geometric quantity
Thermodynamics volume
Dynamic quantity

3. Provision of proficiency testing

(1) Necessity for proficiency testing

Today, trade and academic activities are undertaken on a global scale, and it is essential that “test results measured by a given laboratory are accepted anywhere in the world”. In order to establish confidence in the reliability of test results, it is necessary not only to use testing methods fit for the purpose and streamline the internal quality assurance structure of the laboratory, but also to compare test results against those of other laboratories, analyze the differences and, if necessary, undertake corrective actions.

The ISO/IEC standards that document the international criteria for laboratory accreditation describe the necessity of proficiency testing as follows:

- In order to ensure continued suitability and effectiveness of the quality management system and activities of testing and calibration laboratories, “the results of inter laboratory comparisons or proficiency tests” shall be included in the items of management reviews. (ISO/IEC 17025, 4.15.1)
- In fields where reference standards and traceability to SI units of measuring equipment are not established, “Participation in a suitable programme of interlaboratory comparisons is required where possible.” (ISO/IEC 17025, 5.6.2.1.2)
- “The accreditation body shall ensure that its accredited laboratories participate in proficiency testing or other comparison programmes, where available and appropriate, and that corrective actions are carried out when necessary.” (ISO/IEC 17011, 7.15.3)

Furthermore, the document that describes the procedure for concluding and maintaining the Mutual Recognition Arrangement among laboratory accreditation bodies in the framework of Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC), MRO01, states that “testing and calibration laboratories shall have participated in proficiency testing”. Because JAB is a signatory to this Mutual Recognition Arrangement, JAB makes it mandatory for accredited laboratories to participate in proficiency testing.

The procedures for conducting proficiency testing are defined in ISO/IEC Guide 43, parts 1 and 2, which has been adopted as a Japanese standard.

Information: Standards for proficiency testing

• JIS Q 0043-1

Proficiency testing by interlaboratory comparisons – Part 1: De-

velopment and operation of proficiency testing schemes (ISO/IEC Guide 43-1)

• JIS Q 0043-2

Proficiency testing by interlaboratory comparisons – Part 2: Selection and use of proficiency testing schemes by laboratory accreditation bodies (ISO/IEC Guide 43-2)

(2) Proficiency testing conducted by JAB

JAB has been providing proficiency testing based on the ISO/IEC Guide 43 since 1998.

The kinds of proficiency testing provided by JAB are indicated in **Table 3**. JAB intends to increase the range of tests in the future. For details, please visit the JAB website.

Table 3 Proficiency testing programs

Testing fields
Analysis of metals and mechanical tests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemical analysis of metals • Hardness test (metals in general and bolts) • Tensile test (metals in general and bolts)
EMC tests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emission test using noise generator
High voltage test
Paralytic shellfish poison test
Electric/electronic product environmental test
Soil test
Seed germinating rate test
Safety test for medical electrical devices
Fields of calibration
DC voltage calibration
AC voltage calibration
DC resistance calibration
Calibration of mass (electronic balance, weight, etc.)
Calibration of length (gauge block)
Calibration of thickness (metallic foil)
Calibration of a reference scale (for measuring projector/microscope)
Calibration of a thermocouple
Calibration of a wet gas meter

VI. MULTILATERAL/MUTUAL RECOGNITION ARRANGEMENTS

1. IAF

The International Accreditation Forum, Inc. (IAF) was established in 1993 as an international organization of bodies undertaking accreditation of management system certification bodies and product certification bodies. The purpose was to exchange information to ensure harmonization of technical requirements for accreditation. Only nationally recognized accreditation bodies can be full members of IAF, but regionally recognized accreditation bodies, industry associations and other related parties also participate in IAF activities (see **Table 4**). Ever since its establishment, IAF has worked to promote Multilateral Recognition Arrangements (MLAs). To facilitate the MLA process, IAF has established a series of documents including IAF Guidance documents for the application of ISO/IEC 17011, ISO/IEC Guide 62 (QMS certification), ISO/IEC Guide 66 (EMS certification)³ and ISO/IEC Guide 65 (product certification), together with policies and procedures for membership of the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement among accreditation bodies. In September 1998, IAF, which until then had only been a voluntary forum, was formally registered as a not-for-profit organization in the State of Delaware, USA.

2. The IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement

The ultimate purpose of the IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) is to remove the unnecessary burden on organizations of having to obtain multiple certifications to cover all the countries they trade with, in other words, to realize the goal of “One Stop Certification, Accepted Worldwide”. This ensures that the value of certificates issued by certification bodies that are accredited by an accreditation body that is a member of the MLA is maintained internationally and that purchasers of goods and services can have confidence in the certificates. The MLA does not, however, guarantee that certification bodies accredited by one MLA signatory will automatically be accredited by other accreditation bodies that are also signatories to the MLA. It has therefore become necessary to design a certificate that allows interested parties to confirm, at a glance, that a certificate has been issued by a certification body accredited by an accreditation body that is a signatory to the IAF MLA. To this end, IAF has developed a logo (IAF/MLA logo) indicating that the relevant accreditation body is a signatory to the MLA. IAF

³ ISO/IEC Guide 62 and ISO/IEC Guide 66 have now been replaced by an integrated standard for management system certification bodies, ISO/IEC 17021: 2006

Table 4 IAF and PAC Members and their MLA status

(As of November 1, 2007)

Country/Region	IAF Signatory (*also of PAC)	IAF MLA Group		
		QMS	EMS	Product
Accreditation Bodies				
Argentina	OAA	○	○	○
Australia/New Zealand	JAS-ANZ*	○	○	○
Austria	BMWA	○	○	○
Belgium	BELAC	○	○	○
Brazil	INMETRO	○	○	
Canada	SCC*	○	○	○
Chile	INN			
China	CNAS*	○	○	
Chinese Taipei	TAF*	○	○	○
Czech Republic	CAI	○	○	○
Denmark	DANAK	○	○	○
Dubai (UAE)	DAC			
Egypt	EGAC			
Finland	FINAS	○	○	○
France	COFRAC	○	○	○
Germany	DAR-TGA	○	○	
	DAR-DAP, DAT ech			○
Greece	ESYD	○	○	○
Hong Kong, China	HKAS*	○		
India	NABCB	○	○	
Indonesia	KAN-BSN*	○	○	
Iran	IAS			
Ireland	INAB	○	○	○
Italy	SINCERT	○	○	○
	JAB*	○	○	
Japan	JASC*			
	JIPDEC			
Korea, DPR of	NAA			
Korea, Republic of	KAS*			○
	KAB*	○	○	
Luxembourg	OLAS			
Malaysia	DSM*	○	○	
Mauritius	MAURITAS			
Mexico	EMA*	○	○	○
Netherlands	RvA	○	○	○
Norway	NA	○	○	○
Pakistan	PNAC*			
Philippines	PAO*	○	○	
Poland	PCA	○	○	○
Portugal	IPAC	○	○	○
Romania	RENAR			
Singapore	SAC*	○		○
Slovakia	SNAS	○	○	○
Slovenia	SA	○	○	○
South Africa	SANAS	○	○	○
Spain	ENAC	○	○	○
Sweden	SWEDAC	○	○	○
Switzerland	SAS	○	○	○
Thailand	NAC*	○	○	
Tunisia	TUNAC			
Turkey	TURKAK	○		
United Kingdom	UKAS	○	○	○
United States	ANAB	○	○	○ (ANSI ³)
Regional Groups				
Pacific	PAC	(○)	(○)	(○)
Europe	EA	(○)	(○)	(○)
Americas	IAAC	(○)		
Southern African	SADCA			
Associations				
Canada	CEA			
Europe	EFAC			
Germany	BDI			
India	APEDA			
Italy	AIOICI · ALPI			
Japan	JACB			
United States	IAAR			
World Wide	CIES/IPC/IQNet/ IIOC/IFIA/PEFCS/DTA			
(Number of Signatories)	(72) (*PAC16)	39	36	29

has also established a licensing agreement and procedure for using the IAF MLA mark, and it has been agreed that the usage status of the IAF MLA mark will be checked at the time of peer evaluation.

For details of the IAF MLA mark, please see the Annex to JAB N410, "Rules for use of the accreditation symbol" (<http://www.jab.or.jp>). The IAF MLA now covers three categories of accreditation: accreditation of QMS certification bodies; accreditation of EMS certification bodies; and accreditation of product certification bodies.

3. IAF MLA Procedures

In order to become a signatory to the IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA), the following procedures must be followed:

(1) Conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

For an accreditation body to be a member of IAF, a Memorandum of Understanding needs to be signed. This confirms that the accreditation body is willing to sign the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement in the future and is willing to undergo a peer evaluation as a prerequisite for signatory status.

(2) Peer Evaluation

Before being accepted as an MLA signatory, an accreditation body is evaluated to see if it conforms to the international criteria (ISO/IEC 17011 for accreditation bodies, plus ISO/IEC Guide 62 for accreditation of QMS certification bodies, ISO/IEC Guide 66 for accreditation of EMS certification bodies and ISO/IEC Guide 65 for product certification bodies, together with the associated IAF Guidance documents). For each evaluation, IAF establishes a peer evaluation management committee, and selects an evaluation team from other IAF member bodies to conduct a document review and office assessment of the applicant body's quality management system and to witness an accreditation assessment conducted by the applicant body. The result of the evaluation is submitted to the Multilateral Recognition Management Committee, to determine, after studying the evaluation report, whether or not the applicant body has met the requirements for MLA status. The Committee then submits its recommendation to the IAF MLA group.

(3) Execution of Multilateral Recognition Arrangement

If the recommendation is positive and is accepted by the

IAF MLA group, the applicant accreditation body will be invited to sign the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement and join the MLA group. Signing up to the MLA binds the signatory to accept that the procedures for accreditation assessments conducted by other accreditation bodies in the MLA group are equivalent to their own accreditation procedures and that the outcome can be relied on. When an MLA signatory makes changes to their procedures for undertaking assessments and/or granting accreditation, these changes must be notified to the MLA group without delay. MLA signatories are subject to ongoing peer evaluations at regular intervals to ensure they continue to comply with the relevant standards and other criteria.

4. Inauguration of the IAF MLA group

At the 11th General Assembly of the IAF, held in January 1998 in Guangzhou, China, accreditation bodies that had successfully passed peer evaluation for the accreditation of quality management system certification bodies signed the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement, becoming inaugural members of the IAF MLA group (see Table4).

5. Benefits from Multilateral Recognition Arrangements

(1) Benefit to purchasers

For the purchasers of products and services, the benefit from the accreditation body of their own country signing the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement is that they can have confidence in the certificates issued by certification bodies accredited by MLA partner accreditation bodies in other countries, just as they would have confidence in certificates issued by certification bodies accredited by the accreditation body of their own country. In the event that a product or service supplied by an organization or company that has submitted a certificate issued by a certification body accredited by an accreditation body that is an MLA signatory, is found to be unsatisfactory, the relevant accreditation bodies can exchange information and, depending on the nature of the problem, can request that the defaulting party resolve the problem. Needless to say, having access to many organizations whose management systems are reliable will afford advantages to purchasers in the ability to buy raw materials, products and services of assured quality at reasonable prices. Since becoming a signatory member of the IAF MLA, JAB has been making continued efforts to persuade Government procurement agencies and other public authorities to expand their list of suppliers to include organizations/companies that are certified by certification bodies accredited by other MLA

signatories and not to limit their suppliers to those certified by a certification body accredited by JAB.

(2) Benefit to certified organizations/companies

There have been a few cases where the credibility of a certificate issued by a certification body accredited by JAB has been questioned. In some other countries, however, cases have been reported where acceptance of a quality management system certificate issued by a certification body accredited by an accreditation body of another country has been refused. If such an incident happens with an accreditation body that is a signatory of the MLA, the accreditation body concerned will provide a contact route and will explain to the purchaser concerned that “among accreditation bodies that signed the MLA, the level of reliability expected of an organization or company having a certificate issued by an accredited certification body is equivalent”, and will try to persuade the purchaser concerned to accept the certificate.

(3) Benefit to accredited Certification Bodies

If an organization or company finds that a certificate issued by a certification body accredited by JAB is declined by a purchaser from a country whose accreditation body is also a signatory to the MLA, the certification body can secure a route through JAB to hold discussions with the foreign purchaser concerned.

(4) Benefit to Accreditation Bodies

Accreditation bodies can obtain more detailed information on the quality and reliability of the certifications issued by certification bodies that they have accredited through the global monitoring network built by the accreditation bodies belonging to the MLA group, and feed the results back.

6. The PAC Multilateral Recognition Arrangement

Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) is an organization for the cooperation of accreditation bodies in the Asia-Pacific region, and was established in 1994 at the initiative of Australia (see Table 4). The PAC is invited to attend, as a Specialist Regional Body, the regular meetings of the Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC), within Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

The PAC member bodies undertook peer evaluations to establish a regional Multilateral Recognition Arrangement jointly with IAF and, at the MLA Management Committee meeting held in October 1997, the evaluation reports of four accreditation bodies were considered. The Committee recommended to the Special Plenary Meeting of the PAC that CNAB (China), JAB (Japan),

JAS-ANZ (Australia-New Zealand) and SCC (Canada) be accepted as signatories to the PAC Multilateral Arrangement.

The PAC Special Plenary Meeting accepted this recommendation and these four Accreditation Bodies, representing five countries, became the inaugural members of the PAC MLA group. For the MLA policies and procedures of the PAC MLA, a document identical to the IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement documentation (“MLA policies and procedures”) is used.

The purpose of establishing the PAC MLA group was to realize a request from APEC to develop a multilateral recognition arrangement among APEC member countries, while always maintaining a high level of quality. In September 1999, the PAC MLA group was admitted to the IAF MLA group. This meant that those accreditation bodies in the Pacific region seeking to participate in the IAF MLA group and having already achieved membership of the PAC MLA group, were accepted as IAF MLA group members without requiring duplicate peer evaluations.

At present, other regional groups are working towards the realization of a multilateral recognition arrangement. This is because there are now a large number of signatories to the IAF MLA and it may be more efficient to conduct peer evaluations of individual bodies within regional groups, such as PAC, rather than by IAF as a whole.

In addition to the PAC, other regional groupings are European cooperation for Accreditation (EA) and Inter American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC), a regional association of accreditation bodies in South and Central America.

7. Withdrawal from IPC (former IATCA)

The International Personnel Certification Association (IPC) came into operation in 2005 as a global association of bodies operating certification of persons by changing the name and organizational structure of the former International Auditor and Training Certification Association (IATCA). These changes were made in response to the development of an international standard for personnel certification, ISO/IEC 17024 (Conformity Assessment—General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons).

JAB also took necessary action in response to the establishment of ISO/IEC 17024 and the changes to the former IATCA scheme. From the end of December 2006, JAB ceased providing accreditation services for

auditor training bodies and courses (except for ad hoc assessment) and, once the transition period from the former IATCA scheme had expired, JAB withdrew from IPC.

The accreditation services for training organizations and courses that used to be provided by JAB were transferred to course approvals provided by accredited personnel certification bodies.

8. ILAC

In 1977, the International Laboratory Accreditation Conference (ILAC) was established as an international forum to discuss matters related to testing and calibration laboratories and inspection bodies and their accreditation as competent to undertake specific tasks. ILAC set up subcommittees to provide technical guidance for laboratory activities, technical guidance for accreditation activities, and to promote the use of accreditation by regulators and other government agencies. ILAC also published various guidance documents, and contributed greatly to the harmonization of laboratory accreditation between different countries. By 1995, however, the ILAC General Assembly had grown too large to be used as a forum for substantive discussions, and ILAC was reorganized as an international organization specializing in the accreditation of testing laboratories and inspection bodies. The new organization, International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), was formally established in 1996. ILAC has continued to develop guidance documents concerning the application of the requirements that testing laboratories should satisfy (ISO/IEC 17025) and the requirements that laboratory accreditation bodies should satisfy (ISO/IEC 17011), and has been working for the harmonization of the activities of accreditation bodies. In November 2000, at the ILAC General Assembly, a Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) was established among regional Accreditation Body groupings in Europe, Asia/Pacific, Latin America and South Africa. At present, the ILAC MRA boasts 59 member bodies representing 46 economies. JAB is a full member of ILAC and of the MRA. (See Table 5).

9. The APLAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement

Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) was initiated in 1992, by Australia, and formally established in 1995 as a forum for the cooperation of laboratory accreditation bodies in the Asia Pacific region. APLAC members are listed in Table 5. As with the

Table 5 Signatories to ILAC and APLAC MRAs

(As of November 1, 2007)

Country/Region	Body	ILAC MRA Signatory	APLAC MRA Signatory
Argentina	OAA	○	
Australia	NATA	○	○
Australasia	JASANZ		○
Austria	BMWA	○	
Belgium	BELAC	○	
Brazil	CGCRE/INMETRO	○	
Canada	SCC	○	○
	CAEAL	○	○
China.P.R.	CNAS	○	○
Hong Kong/China	HKAS	○	○
Chinese Taipei	TAF	○	○
Costa Rica	ECA	○	
Cuba	ONARC	○	
Czech Republic	CAI	○	
Denmark	DANAK	○	
Egypt	NLAB	○	
Finland	FINAS	○	
France	COFRAC	○	
Germany	DAP	○	
	DASMIN	○	
	DACH	○	
	DKD	○	
	DATech	○	
Greece	ESYD	○	
India	NABL	○	○
Indonesia	KAN	○	○
Ireland	INAB	○	
Israel	ISRAC	○	
Italy	SINAL	○	
	SIT	○	
		○	
Japan	JAB	○	○
	IAJapan	○	○
	VLAC	○	○
Korea.R.	KOLAS	○	○
Malaysia	STANDARDS MALAYSIA	○	○
Mexico	ema	○	○
Netherlands	RvA	○	
New Zealand	IANZ	○	○
Norway	NA	○	
Philippines	PAO	○	○
Poland	PCA	○	
Portugal	IPAC	○	
Romania	RENAR	○	
Singapore	SAC	○	○
Slovakia	SNAS	○	
Slovenia	SA	○	
South Africa	SANAS	○	
Spain	ENAC	○	
Sweden	SWEDAC	○	
Switzerland	SAS	○	
Thailand	DMSc	○	○
	TLAS	○	○
	DSS	○	○
Turkey	TURKAK	○	
United Kingdom	UKAS	○	
United States	A2LA	○	○
	NVLAP	○	○
	IAS	○	○
	ACLASS	○	○
Vietnam	BoA	○	○
(No. of Signatories)		59	26

PAC referred to in section 6 above, APLAC participates as a Specialist Regional Body in the regular meetings of the Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC) of Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

APLAC conducted peer evaluations for a Mutual Recognition Arrangement and, in October 1997, seven accreditation bodies representing six economies, became the inaugural signatories of the APLAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement. These first signatory bodies were A2LA (USA), CNLA (Chinese Taipei), HOKLAS (Hong Kong, China), IANZ (New Zealand), NATA (Australia), NVLAP (USA) and SINGLAS (Singapore).

JAB became a signatory member of the APLAC MRA group in October 1998. As of today, the APLAC MRA has 26 member bodies. In addition to the membership to the MRA group for testing and calibration laboratories, JAB became a signatory member of the MRA group for medical laboratories in April 2007. The APLAC MRA has also been extended to include accreditation of inspection bodies and, to date, twelve accreditation bodies in the region have achieved MRA status for inspection body accreditation.

VII. DESIGNATED ACCREDITATION ASSESSMENT UNDER MRA LAW

1. What is MRA Law?

The Law for Implementation of Mutual Recognition between Japan and the European Community and the Republic of Singapore in Relation to Conformity Assessment of Specified Equipment (July 11, 2001, Law No.111, hereinafter referred to as the “MRA Law”), prescribes requirements for implementation of mutual recognition.

Under the system of mutual recognition, conformity assessment bodies in each country are registered by the Japan-EC or Japan-Singapore Joint Committee, and the partner country accepts the results of conformity assessments performed by the registered conformity assessment bodies. This means that, as a result of enforcement of the MRA Law, the country importing products will accept the results of conformity assessment activities performed in the exporting country and will not require any further conformity assessment, such as

testing, after importing products. This will contribute greatly to facilitating trade between Japan and the EU, and Japan and Singapore.

2. MRA Law and the designated assessment activities of JAB

JAB is a Designated Accreditation Body defined in the MRA Law for each of the areas listed below (Table 6). Therefore, if a conformity assessment body based in Japan wishes to apply for accreditation to conduct conformity assessment activities in these areas against the regulatory requirements of the EC or Singapore, it should submit an application to the government and to JAB at the same time. JAB will conduct the assessment on behalf of the government and notify the assessment results to the government. The government, after considering the evaluation results from JAB, will determine whether or not to grant accreditation to the body.

Table 6 Activities which JAB is designated to assess

Date of Designation	Target Products	Conformity Assessment Standards	Country or Area Accepting the Results
June 17, 2002	Electrical products, telecommunications & radio equipment	R&TTE Directive, Low Voltage Directive	Europe
February 24, 2003	Electrical products, telecommunications & radio equipment	Singaporean statutes	Singapore

VIII. RELATED INFORMATION

1. Accreditation symbols of JAB

(1) Logo of JAB

The design concept of JAB’s logo is the image of Japan as a whole with the “A” of Accreditation. The three horizontal lines represent the partnership among organizations/companies, the conformity assessment bodies and JAB. Blue is used as the key color and represents reliability and progress.

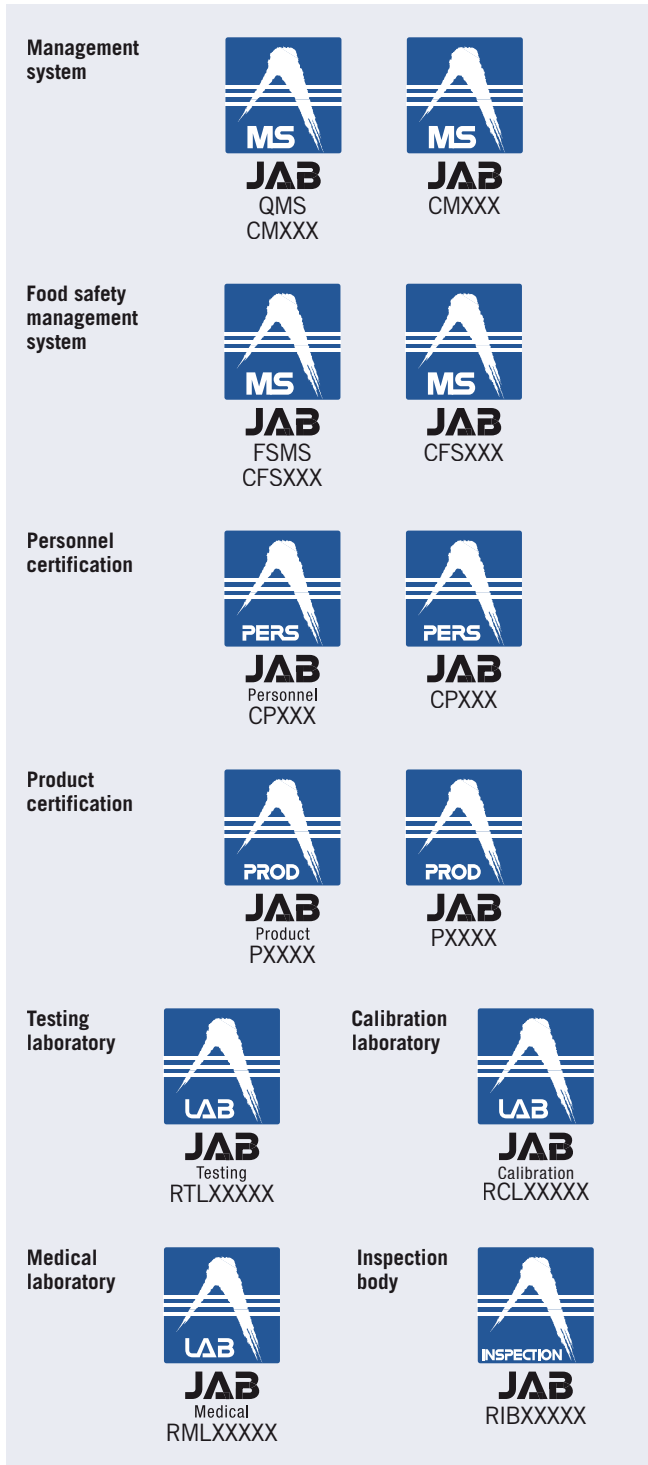
Figure 6 Logo



(2) Accreditation symbols of JAB

The JAB accreditation symbols are to show the accredited conformity assessment bodies' status of accreditation. They are based on JAB's logo together with the type of the conformity assessment body and its accreditation number.

Figure 7 Example of accreditation symbols



(3) Use of accreditation symbols

(a) Bodies accredited by JAB

Accredited certification bodies, laboratories and inspection bodies may use the relevant JAB accreditation symbol on:

- 1) Documents, reports or certificates related to the accredited activities Example: Certification documents, competence certificates, product certificates, test reports, calibration certificates, inspection reports.
- 2) Communication media such as the Internet, documents, brochures or advertising

(b) Organizations certified by bodies accredited by JAB

Bodies accredited by JAB must have a management policy in line with JAB N410 and may authorize the organizations certified by them to use the accreditation symbol based on that policy.

For details of the rules for use of the JAB accreditation symbol by an organization that is certified by a body accredited by JAB, please contact the certifying body for further information.

(4) Marks related to Multilateral/Mutual Recognition Arrangements

JAB is a signatory to the IAF MLA for accreditation of QMS and EMS certification bodies and of the ILAC MRA for testing and calibration laboratories, including medical laboratories. Both JAB and the bodies accredited by JAB are entitled to use the relevant IAF and ILAC marks as evidence of JAB's membership of these Multilateral/Mutual Recognition Arrangements.

Figure 8 Marks for multilateral/mutual recognition arrangement



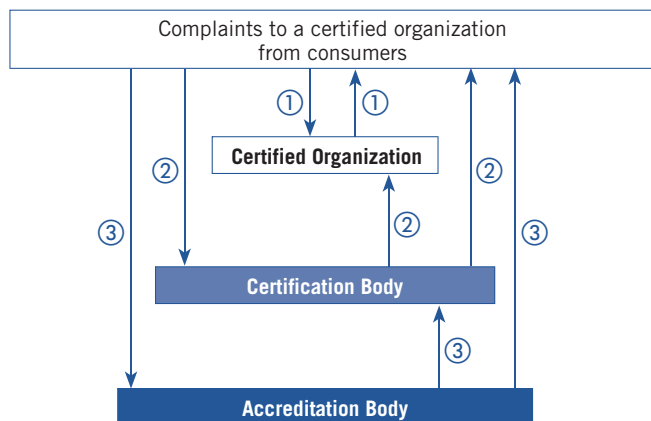
(5) Rule for use of the accreditation symbols

For details concerning the use of accreditation symbols, please see JAB N410, "Rules for use of the accreditation symbol".

2. Procedures for complaints related to JAB activities

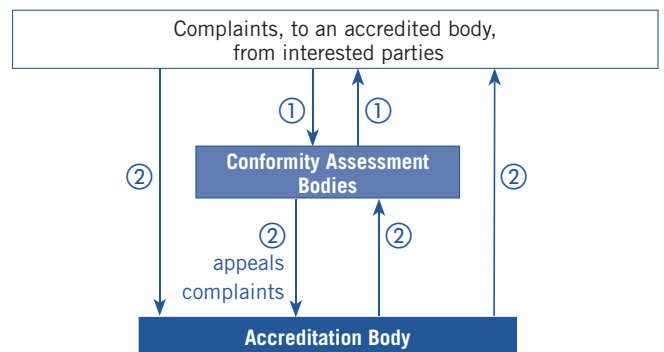
JAB has established formal procedures for lodging complaints and these are detailed in the document: “Procedures for Dealing with Appeals and Complaints Relating to Accreditation (JAB SG200)”.

(1) Complaints, from consumers and members of the public against certified organizations/companies certified under ISO 9001, ISO 14001, and other standards



- ① In order to lodge a complaint concerning a certified organization, the certified organization concerned has to be contacted first.
- ② If the organization concerned does not respond adequately, then the case can be brought before the certification body that certified the organization as a complaint against its having granted the certification.
- ③ If the response from the certification body to this complaint is deemed inadequate, the case can be brought before the accreditation body. The accreditation body will communicate with the certification body concerned to ensure the complaint has been dealt with appropriately and, if it judges that the certification body's system for handling complaints is not functioning adequately, it may conduct an investigation, ad hoc assessment or other process.

(2) Complaints, against conformity assessment bodies accredited by JAB or against JAB itself



- ① A complaint to a body accredited by JAB should first be lodged with the body concerned.
- ② If the response of the body concerned is deemed inadequate, the case may be brought before JAB. Any appeals against adverse decisions on accreditation made by JAB or other dissatisfaction (complaints) regarding accreditation services may also be brought to JAB.

(3) Contacting JAB

General Affairs Division CS <http://www.jab.or.jp>
 TEL: +81-3-3442-1218 FAX: +81-3-5475-2780

3. JAB information services

(1) Internet website

JAB publicizes the latest information on its website, including accreditation of conformity assessment bodies, registrations of certified organizations, international conferences, mutual recognition status, publication of criteria and other data. The information consists mainly of:

- Accreditation/registration information
- Statistical data on certified organizations (statistical data by bodies, regions, accreditation scope, and other data; summaries of questionnaire survey results and other information)
- “Messages/What’s New” (Information on the start of new accreditation programs, guides to open forums/briefing sessions, information on accreditation, revisions/publication of criteria, reports on international conferences, mutual recognition and other information)

(2) Symposiums, open forums and briefing sessions

JAB organizes symposiums, open forums, briefing sessions, and other opportunities to disseminate information on conformity assessment schemes. Recently, JAB has organized technical information seminars on information security, food safety and laboratories; seminars on uncertainty, briefing sessions on accreditation schemes related to ISO 15189 and other subjects, in addition to forums on the better known quality and environmental management system certification schemes. For more specific information, please visit the JAB website.

Open forum (March 2007)



(3) JAB accreditation criteria

The JAB accreditation criteria can be downloaded without charge from the JAB website. Printed copies are sold at the following outlets:

Publishing Service Division 1, Publishing Department, Japanese Standards Association

4-1-24 Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-8440, JAPAN

TEL: +81-3-3583-8002 FAX: +81-3-3583-0462
<http://www.jsa.or.jp>

The criteria and procedures for evaluation or registration of auditors are published by the auditor evaluation/registration bodies.

QMS: Japanese Registration of Certificated Auditors (abbrev. JRCA), Japanese Standards Association

TEL: +81-3-3583-8013 FAX: +81-3-3583-8570

EMS: Center of Environmental Auditors Registration (abbrev. CEAR/JEMAI), Japan Environmental Management Association for Industry

TEL: +81-3-5209-7714 FAX: +81-3-5209-7719

(4) Informative document

“Confirmation Assessment Handbook: For correct understanding of ISO”

Edited by JAB / Published by JUSE Press, Ltd

(5) Obtaining information from sources other than JAB

For information on contacts in Japan for ISO standards in general, how to obtain JIS/ISO standards, the development status of JIS/ISO standards and related matters, please contact the following:

Contact in Japan for ISO and JIS standards in general

Secretariat, Japanese Industrial Standards Committee (JISC)

Technical Regulations, Standards and Conformity Assessment Policy Division, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

1-3-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8901, JAPAN

TEL: +81-3-3501-9232 FAX: +81-3-3580-1418
<http://www.jisc.go.jp>

Obtaining JIS standards and ISO standards

Publishing Service Division 1, Publishing Department, Japanese Standards Association

4-1-24 Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-8440, JAPAN

TEL: +81-3-3583-8002 FAX: +81-3-3583-0462
<http://www.jsa.or.jp>

Development status of JIS standards related to conformity assessment schemes and others

Conformity Assessment Division, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

1-3-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8901, JAPAN

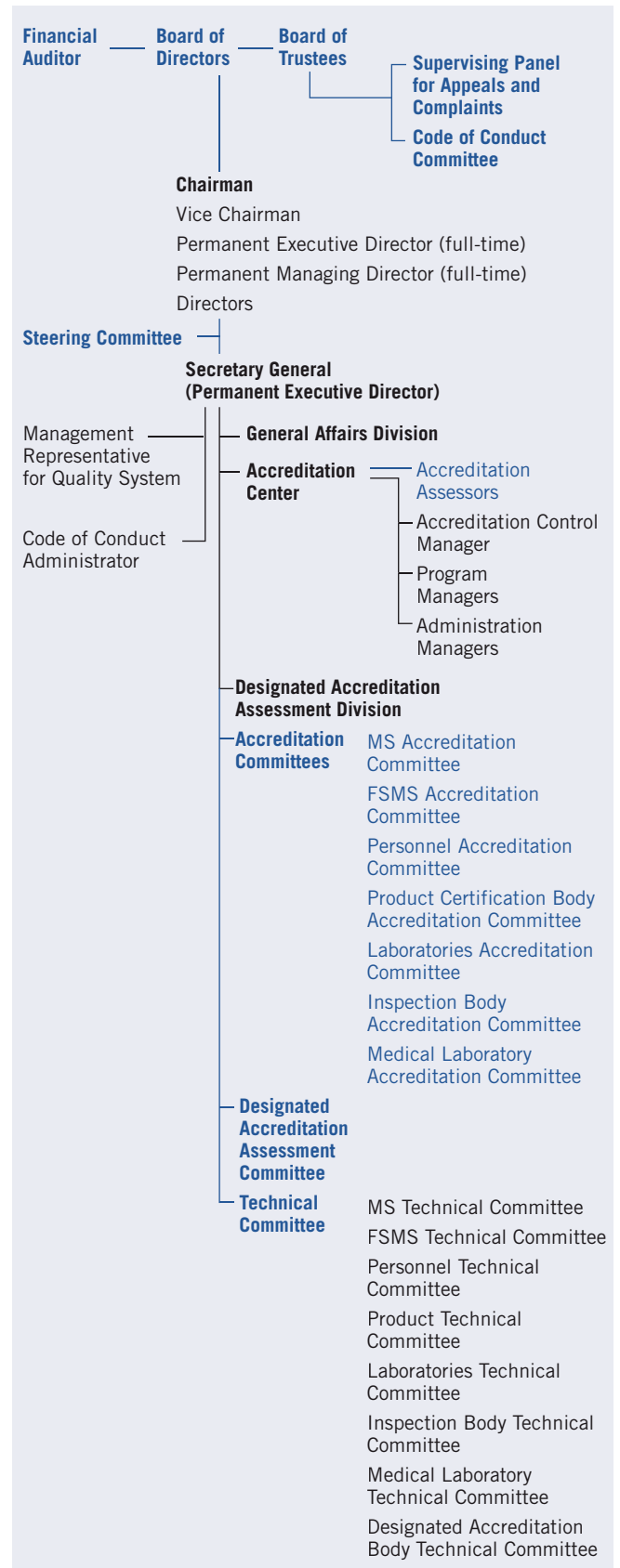
TEL: +81-3-3501-9473 FAX: +81-3-3580-8598
<http://www.meti.go.jp>

(6) Websites of international organizations/conferences

- ISO** (International Organization for Standardization)
<http://www.iso.org/>
- IEC** (International Electrotechnical Commission)
<http://www.iec.ch/>
- IAF** (International Accreditation Forum, Inc.)
<http://www.iaf.nu/>
- PAC** (Pacific Accreditation Cooperation)
<http://www.apec-pac.org/>
- ILAC** (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation)
<http://www.ilac.org/>
- APLAC** (Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation)
<http://www.aplac.org/>
- EA** (European Cooperation for Accreditation)
<http://www.european-accreditation.org/>
- IAAC** (Interamerican Accreditation Cooperation)
<http://www.iaac.org.mx/>
- SADCA** (Southern African Development Community in Accreditation)
<http://www.sanas.co.za/>

4. Organization of JAB

(As of October 2007)



The Japan Accreditation Board for Conformity Assessment

If you want to visit JAB's office:

Nearest station

- Gotanda Station on the JR Yamanote Line, Tokyu Ikegami Line or Metropolitan Subway Asakusa Line
- Five minutes walk from the East Exit of the station
After crossing the overhead walkway, follow Yatsuyama-Dori (Sony-Dori) towards Gotenyama. Our office is in a building on the left side of the street with a red entrance to Konami Sports Club (gymnasium).



ADDRESS:

3rd Floor, Gotanda AN Building,
1-22-1 Higashi-Gotanda, Shinagawa-ku,
Tokyo 141-0022, JAPAN

CONTACTS:

General Affairs Division (Main Switchboard)
TEL: +81-3-3442-1210
(Complaints/Public Relations)
TEL: +81-3-3442-1218

Accreditation Center
TEL: +81-3-3442-1211
TEL: +81-3-3442-1213

Designated Accreditation Assessment Division
(Government-designated assessment)
TEL: +81-3-3442-1217

Divisional switchboard
FAX: +81-3-5475-2780
URL <http://www.jab.or.jp>