



## ACCREDITATION SCHEME FOR VALIDATION/VERIFICATION BODIES

### Terms & Conditions for maintaining accreditation of validation/verification body (V/VB)

We the undersigned, on behalf the validation/verification body

(Name of Validation/Verification Body)

understand the Rules & Procedures and Requirements of the Accreditation Schemes for V/VB agree to fulfill and abide by the following terms and conditions adopted and implemented by the Sri Lanka Accreditation Board for Conformity Assessment (SLAB) for maintaining accreditation for V/VB as given below.

*(This document shall be signed by the Chief Executive or his Authorized Representative and submitted to SLAB in duplicate along with the application form. SLAB will return a copy after grant of accreditation by endorsing it. In case of changes to this document, SLAB will make sure that the current document is signed by the Validation/Verification body, always.)*

SRI LANKA ACCREDITATION BOARD FOR CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT				
Title: Terms & Conditions for maintaining validation/verification body accreditation			Doc No: VVB-RG (P) - 03	
Issue No: 02	Date of Issue: 2023-05-19	Rev No: 00	Date of Rev:	Page 01 of 06

## **Agreement**

1. The V/VB shall carry out its activities in such a way as to meet the requirements of ISO/IEC17029:2019, SLAB specific criteria, Scheme requirements and Rules & procedures for Validation and Verification Bodies (VVB-RG(P)-02).
2. The accreditation shall be initially granted after a successful initial assessment, valid for a period of three years unless otherwise decided by SLAB and thereafter shall be subject to on-site annual surveillances. These surveillance activities shall be conducted before the completion of each year for two years counting from the date of grant of accreditation.
3. Before expiry of the validity period, the accreditation granted shall be renewed by a re-assessment, for which the V/VB shall apply in writing four months before the expiry of accreditation. Thereafter SLAB shall conduct re-assessment in every three years and annual surveillances.
4. In addition to planned surveillances, depending on the performance/behavior of the V/VB or in response to complaints with regard to violation of rules and procedures of SLAB for accreditation, unannounced or other surveillance activities may be arranged. The V/VB shall assist in the investigation and resolution of any accreditation-related complaints about the V/VB referred to it by the SLAB.
5. When requested, the V/VB shall afford accommodation and co-operation to enable the SLAB to verify fulfillment of requirements for accreditation. These facilities shall be available at all premises /locations where the conformity assessment is supposed to take place. The V/VB shall arrange witness assessments as informed by SLAB. For this purpose, the V/VB shall have a legally enforceable arrangements with its' clients.
6. The V/VB shall provide on request of SLAB, access to SLAB's assessment teams including observers, witnessing assessors and APAC/IAF Peer Evaluators or any expert appoint on behalf of SLAB to assess the V/VB's performance or Performance of SLAB's assessment team.
7. The V/VB shall have legally enforceable arrangements with their client to access its locations and equipment as relevant that commit the client to provide, on request of V/VB, access to accreditation body assessment teams including observers, witnessing assessors and ILAC/IAF ,APAC Peer Evaluators and any expert appoint on behalf of SLAB to assess the V/VB's performance when carrying out inspection activities at its client's site. V/VB shall be responsible for provide personnel protective (PPE) equipment for assessment team when required
8. The V/VB shall appoint competent personnel to perform and evaluate compliance against the applicable standard and SLAB Requirements.
9. On grant of accreditation, the V/VB shall claim accreditation in only those technical areas for which it has been accredited and as stated in the Accreditation certificate and Schedule of accreditation. Only those critical locations which are declared to the SLAB shall be claimed as to be covered by the scope of accreditation.

SRI LANKA ACCREDITATION BOARD FOR CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT				
Title: Terms & Conditions for maintaining validation/verification body accreditation			Doc No: VVB-RG (P) - 03	
Issue No: 02	Date of Issue: 2023-05-19	Rev No: 00	Date of Rev:	Page 02 of 06

10. The V/VB shall abide by the Policy governing the use of SLAB accreditation symbols (AC-RG(P)01). The mark shall be used for the purpose of identifying correctly and unambiguously its Validation /Verification services accredited by SLAB. If the policy of the V/VB is to use the accreditation symbol for statement/claim pertaining to accredited scope. All statement/claim issued on accredited scope shall carry the accreditation symbol.

11. The V/VB shall not use the SLAB accreditation symbols in a misleading manner to imply a product, process, system or person is approved by the SLAB or/ and not state SLAB accreditation in a manner as to be considered misleading or unauthorized and bring disrepute to SLAB and not state its accreditation in a manner as to be considered misleading or unauthorized and bring disrepute on SLAB.

12. The V/VB shall ensure that accreditation or the status of accreditation is not used by its clients, or be authorized by its clients for use in any way that SLAB may consider it to be misleading. V/VB shall make it clear in all its contracts with clients that accreditation in no way implies that the product or service is approved by SLAB. Use of SLAB symbol on products is not permitted.

13. The V/VB shall provide information on certification body validation /verification schedule at the beginning of every year to the SLAB and V/VB shall arrange witness assessment as informed by SLAB

14. The V/VB shall pay fees for processing of application, fees for extending scope of accreditation expenses towards travel, board & lodging for assessments, annual accreditation fees as determined by SLAB. In the event of withdrawal of accreditation, the V/VB shall settle the due payment, if any. Any late payments as specify by the SLAB with subject to an additional late payment charge as decided by the SLAB.

15. The V/VB shall inform SLAB within 01 month (one) of significant changes which affect the activities ,operations of V/VB relevant to accreditation such as in legal, commercial, ownership or organizational status, any suspension or cancelation of regulation status by regulatory bodies, organizational structure, top management and key personnel , main policies, resources , premises, scope of accreditation, work procedures and other such matter that may affect the ability of the V/VB to fulfill requirements of relevant standard(s)

16. Decision making on V/VB shall not be sub contracted or out sourced. The V/VB shall declare all the sites which it operates.

17. The accredited V/VB shall respond promptly to the changes initiated by SLAB in its accreditation criteria, policies and procedures and for necessary change the V/VB will be given sufficient notice and time on the opinion of SLAB, as is found to be reasonable, to carry out adjustments in its system.

18. SLAB may suspend or withdraw accreditation of an accredited V/VB, on one or more of the following grounds informing in writing with prior written notification:

- a. After undergoing a surveillance or re-assessment V/VB has not taken corrective action after getting sufficient time and notice from SLAB.
- b. Non-payment of accreditation related expenses.
- c. Non-cooperation with SLAB.

SRI LANKA ACCREDITATION BOARD FOR CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT				
Title: Terms & Conditions for maintaining validation/verification body accreditation			Doc No: VVB-RG (P) - 03	
Issue No: 02	Date of Issue: 2023-05-19	Rev No: 00	Date of Rev:	Page 03 of 06

- d. Refusal to allow examination of documents and records by SLAB & its assessors/experts-
- e. Denial of access to SLAB & its assessment team and /or peer evaluators to its V/VB activities
- f. Wrong representation of scope of accreditation.
- g. Misuse of SLAB Accreditation symbols /IAF MLA Mark or its use during suspension or after expiry of accreditation.
- h. In event of compromising impartiality of V/VB operation or violation of rules and procedures of SLAB.
- i. Activity bringing disrepute to SLAB.
- j. Result of complaint analysis or any other information which indicates that the V/VB no longer complies with requirements of SLAB.
- k. Evidence of fraudulent behavior, or V/VB intentionally provides false information or conceals information,
- l. Non adherence Signification changes as mentioned in section 15 of this document.
- m. Refuse to accept a witness assessment as informed by SLAB, where justifications/reasons are not accepted by SLAB

19. The accredited V/VB upon suspension, reduction or withdrawal of its accreditation (however determined) or expiry of validity of accreditation, accredited V/VB shall forthwith discontinue its use of all advertising matter that contain any reference to the accreditation status and return the certificate/s and schedule/s of accreditation to SLAB.

20. SLAB may at subsequent stage decide to suspend/reduce the scope of accreditation, granted initially, if significant deficiency/ies is/are is observed during surveillance or re-assessment in the V/VB management system or competence, which is likely to adversely influence V/VB activity or the V/VB unable to complete corrective actions within agreed/ stipulated time of the surveillance/ re-assessment.

21. V/VB is required to inform the SLAB, if any of the proposed Assessment team members happens to be their Consultant or associated with the V/VB in any other capacity, and SLAB shall not appoint these consultants as Assessment team members

22. SLAB absolves itself of any legal or financial liability arising out if V/VB's or its client activities involving accidental or consequential damage to personnel/ equipment /image at any time. V/VB shall have arrangements (eg. Insurance, reserves or other means) sufficient to cover liabilities arising from the activities and areas in which it operates.

The V/VB has the right to complaint on any dissatisfaction with SLAB Accreditation Process and all personnel involved in the accreditation activities as per Procedure the handling complaints (GNPR(P)08) or appeal on any adverse decision taken by the SLAB on accreditation and associated activities as per the Procedure for dealing with appeals, GN-PR(P)09.

23. All disputes, if any, arising out of SLAB decisions that remain unresolved through internal mechanism provided by SLAB are subject to the Alternate Dispute Resolution (Arbitration). If fails can initiate litigation within the jurisdiction of the Courts in Sri Lanka .

SRI LANKA ACCREDITATION BOARD FOR CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT				
Title: Terms & Conditions for maintaining validation/verification body accreditation				Doc No: VVB-RG (P) - 03
Issue No: 02	Date of Issue: 2023-05-19	Rev No: 00	Date of Rev:	Page 04 of 06

24. The SLAB publishes the details of scope of accreditation & accreditation status of the accredited Validation/Verification Bodies along with their contact addresses and status of accreditation such as withdrawal of accreditation, suspension of accreditation and termination of accreditation status in SLAB web site.

25. The SLAB protects the confidential nature of the assessment findings unless legally obligated to do so otherwise indicated in the contractual arrangements between SLAB and V/VB. If the V/VB provides third parties with access to the assessment report, it shall provide access only to the complete assessment report. Assessment team and all other persons who, work for the benefit of the accreditation by the SLAB, shall have access to the V/VB's files/information only after they sign and handover confidentiality statement to the particular V/VB.

By signing this document, it is agreed that a V/VB after accreditation agrees to comply at all times with all Terms and Conditions for Maintaining SLAB accreditation.

Signature of Chief Executive or his/her Authorized Representative:

Name, Designation & V/VB:

Date & Place:

Seal of the V/VB, if any

Signature of Director/CEO, SLAB

Name

Date & Place

Date of Receipt of Accredited Certificate:

Seal of SLAB

SRI LANKA ACCREDITATION BOARD FOR CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT				
Title: Terms & Conditions for maintaining validation/verification body accreditation			Doc No: VVB-RG (P) - 03	
Issue No: 02	Date of Issue: 2023-05-19	Rev No: 00	Date of Rev:	Page 05 of 05