



Creating opportunities for Fair and Just Intra-African and Global Trade and the need for acceptability of Conformity Assessment Results

African Day of Standardisation

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Standardization in Africa



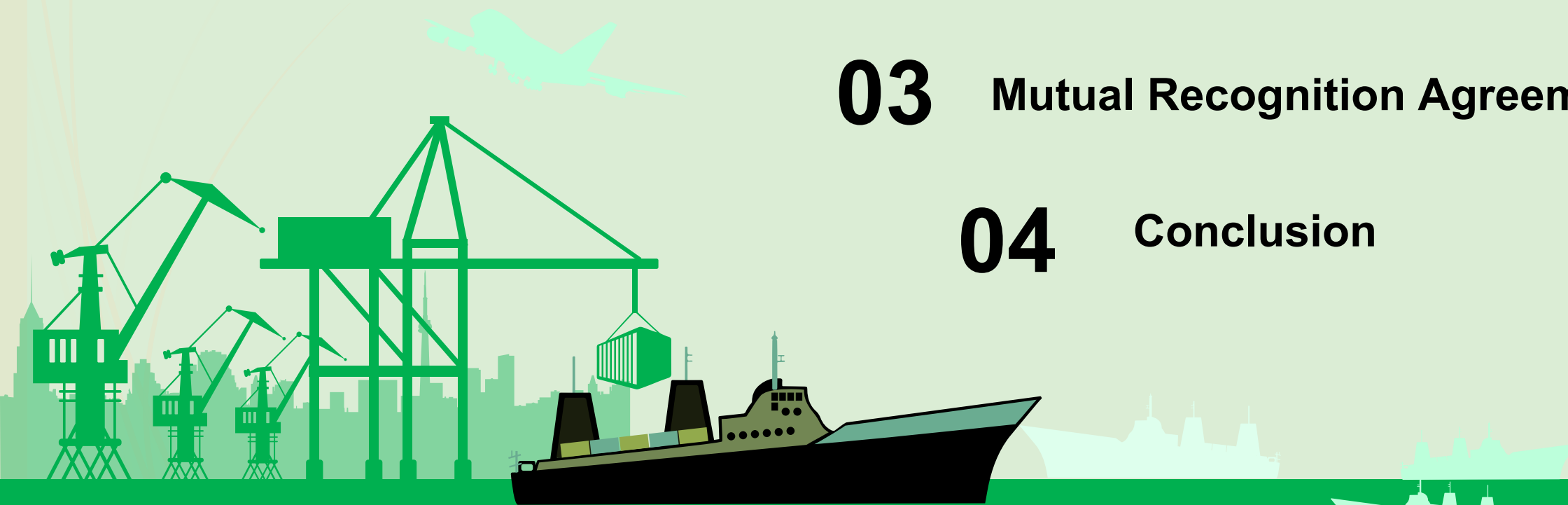
Content

01 Opportunities for Fair and Just Intra-Africa Trade

02 Dual marking

03 Mutual Recognition Agreements

04 Conclusion



Fair and Just Intra-Africa Trade – General Perspective



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**Equitable
Distribution of
Benefits &
addressing NTBs**

**Inclusivity and
Transparency**

**Sustainable
and Ethical
Practices**

Provision of:

- Harmonised policies
- Capacity building for implementation
- Access to trade information
- Digital and physical infrastructure
- Harmonizing transit regulations,
- Transparent customs processes

- Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)
- Women and Youth in Trade
- Stakeholder Engagement

- Environmental Protection
- Labor and social Rights
- Anti-Corruption
- Profitable business

Fair and Just Intra-Africa Trade – ARSO Perspective

Harmonised Standards

- 99 ARSO Technical Committee
- 2 440 Harmonised African Standards (e.g: GFGP, GRMP, Insects, other indigenous)

Conformity Assessment

- ARSO Conformity Assessment Programme (ACAP)
- 11 Certification Schemes with 2 MARKS
- 213 Certification guideline, CA Policies and Certification Checklists

Capacity Building and awareness creation activities

- 36 Training Materials
- 24 Value addition guidelines
- 21 Technical Regulatory guidelines
- 68 Good Practice Outreach Materials (GPOM)

Digital systems and access to information

- African Trade Web Portal – ARSO DISNET
- ARSO SharePoint – TC Work & access to harmonised standards (digital platform to be launched soon)

Stakeholder engagement, SME development and Women & Youth empowerment

- 67 Awareness creation physical workshop (2022-2025)
- 55 Monthly webinars
- 527 standards brochures (Did You Know)
- AU Women in Processing, ImpactHer
- Essay Competition for Youth
- SME support in certification

Sustainable Practices

- African Ecolabelling Standards aligned with International market requirements (**EUDR**) – Benchmarking process with ITC done & continuous
- **Soy, cattle, palm oil, wood, cocoa, coffee, and natural rubber and others**

African Conformity Assessment Programme (ACAP)




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AFRICAN CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME

ACAP 1-1
Second Edition 2023


Conformity assessment — Part 1: General requirements for the certification systems

 Reference No. ACAP 1-1:2023(E)
ICS 03.200/97.220.10
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AFRICAN CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME

ACAP 1-2
Second Edition 2023


Conformity assessment — Part 2: Specific requirements for the certification systems and standards design

 Reference No. ACAP 1-2:2023(E)
ICS 03.200/97.220.10
© ARSO 2023

AFRICAN CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME

CACO ACAP 1-3
First Edition 2017


Regulations — Part 3: Requirements for approval of certification bodies

 Reference No. ACAP 1-3:2017(E)
ICS 03.200/97.220.10
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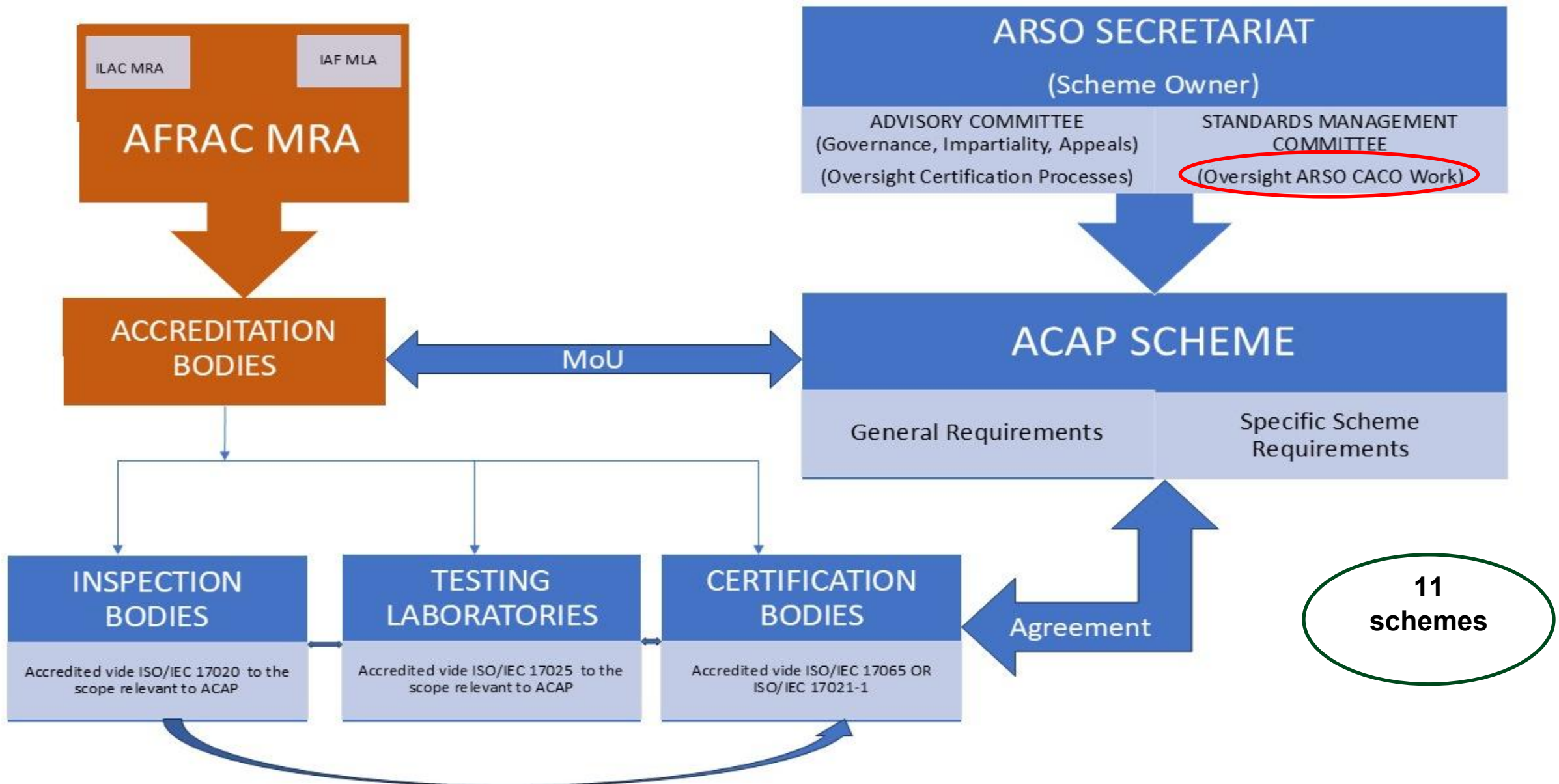
AFRICAN CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME

ACAP 1-4
Second Edition 2023

Conformity assessment — Part 4: Requirements for approval of testing and calibration laboratories

 Reference No. ACAP 1-4:2023(E)
ICS 03.200/97.220.10
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ACAP Structure



ACAP Recognition

..... endorsement of ACAP within the [AFRAC MRA](#)
..... CABs operating under the scheme to fulfil requirements for Mutual Recognition Arrangement under AFRAC



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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

AFRICAN ORGANISATION FOR STANDARDISATION

AND

SADC ACCREDITATION SERVICE

FOR

ACCREDITATION OF THE ACAP CERTIFICATION SCHEME AND
ADMINISTRATION OF ECOMARK PROGRAMME IN AFRICA



MEMORADUM OF AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

AFRICAN ORGANISATION FOR STANDARDISATION

AND

EGYPTIAN ACCREDITATION COUNCIL, EGAC

FOR

THE INTEGRATION OF THE ACAP IN THEIR ACCREDITATION SCHEME AND
ADMINISTRATION ECOMARK AFRICA PROGRAMME
IN AFRICA



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

AFRICAN ORGANISATION FOR STANDARDISATION

AND

KENYA ACCREDITATION SERVICE

FOR

ACCREDITATION OF THE ACAP CERTIFICATION SCHEME AND
ADMINISTRATION OF ECOMARK PROGRAMME IN AFRICA



Certification Bodies (CB) Accreditation for ACAP



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CBs Already ACCREDITED



CBs engaged for Accreditation

SN	Country	CBs
1	Botswana	BOBs
2	Burkina Faso	ABNORM
3	Cameroon	ANOR (completion soon)
4	D R Congo	OCC
5	Egypt	EOS
6	Ethiopia	IES
7	Malawi	MBS
8	Namibia	NSI
9	Rwanda	RSB
10	Togo	ATNOR
11	Zimbabwe	SAZ

ARSO MARKS



Certified firms – Scheme D – ECOMARK AFRICA



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No	Country	Firm	Scope
1.	Kenya	Kamuthanga Farm Ltd-	Aquaculture Tilapia
2.	Kenya	Coffee Management Services Ltd	Agriculture coffee
3.	Kenya	Kofinaf Company Ltd	Agriculture coffee
4.	Rwanda	Hotel des mille collines	Tourism
5.	Kenya	Kapngetuny Cooperative Society	Agriculture coffee
6.	Kenya	Kapkiyai Multipurpose Cooperative Society	Agriculture coffee
7.	Zimbabwe	Allied Timber of Zimbabwe	Forestry
8.	Ghana	Quarcoo Initiatives (Queen organics)	Agriculture-Orange peels
9.	Nigeria	Ralpmay Nig Ltd.	African catfish
10.	Uganda	SON Fish farm Ltd	Tilapia
11.	Zimbabwe	Upper Lesbare Irrigation Scheme	Agriculture-Paprika
12.	Zambia	PA Chikaya Fish Farm	Fisheries-Tilapia
13.	Zambia	Yatu Food Limited	Agriculture -Black Tea

ARSO MARKS



DUAL MARKING



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Dual Marking

ARSO Mark to a product complying with the requirements of an **adopted harmonized African standard**

- Products must undergo CA procedures, which may include testing, inspection, and certification
- Producers must have systems in place to ensure traceability of their products.

Targeted Products including but not limited to:

- ❖ Food and agricultural products
- ❖ Chemicals and cosmetic products
- ❖ Building materials
- ❖ Electrical and electronic products
- ❖ Textiles and leather products

Planned work under DUAL MARKING

- Over 130 products
- 96 SMES
Eswatini, Kenya, Ghana, Namibia, Togo, Senegal, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Zambia, and Ethiopia
- Reduced cost
- Access to wider markets
- No Redundant Testing and Certification
- Competitiveness
- Regulatory Cooperation
- Consumer Confidence
- Facilitating MRAs



Suppliers Declaration of Conformity (SDoC)

Self-Declaration



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Product Identification

Name
Model
Specification

Applicable Standards & Regulations

Reference to national
Regional or International
Standards

Manufacturer or Supplier Details

Name
Address
Signature of responsible party

Test Reports (If applicable)

Supporting evidence from
internal or third-Party labs

Date and Place of Issue

Legal confirmation of
compliance

- Facilitates faster market entry
- Simplifies Trade and Lowers Costs
- Supports Compliance
- Promotes Supplier Responsibility and Transparency
- Enhances Flexibility for SMEs and local operators

- Limited recognition in high-risk sectors
- Risk of False Claims
- Market-Specific Acceptance

INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD

ISO/IEC
17050-1

First edition
2004-10-01

Corrected version
2007-06-15

**Conformity assessment — Supplier's
declaration of conformity —**

Part 1:
General requirements

*Évaluation de la conformité — Déclaration de conformité du
fournisseur —*

Partie 1: Exigences générales

Mutual Acceptance of Conformity Assessment Results - MRAs



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Abuja Treaty
Chapter Xi
Standardization and
Measurement Systems

AfCFTA Annex 6

Art. 4, 8, 9, 10

Mutual Recognition
Arrangement
Framework

AQP

Clause 8 and 9

- Alignment of National Quality Policies
- The need for a Technical Regulatory Framework

ACTReF

- The need for NaTReF
- Withdrawal of Conflicting Standards



Bottlenecks



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1. Low level of adoption of Harmonised Standards
2. Limited Testing and Certification Infrastructure
3. Resistance from some National Regulatory Authorities
4. Under estimation of the value of harmonized African Standards and ACAP
5. Enforcement and compliance issues
6. Political and Bureaucratic challenges

Interventions



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1. Strengthen regional cooperation between African standards organizations.
2. Increase investment and support in accredited testing laboratories and certification bodies.
3. Educate businesses on ACAP requirements through awareness programs.
4. Simplify the certification process to reduce costs for SMEs through Dual Marking
5. Enhance enforcement mechanisms to prevent non-compliant products from entering the market



Thank you!

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