

# ACCREDITATION : BENEFITS AND USES

## **The Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC)**

is the regional association of accreditation bodies in Asia Pacific with the primary role to manage and expand a mutual recognition arrangement (MRA) among accreditation bodies. The MRA facilitates the acceptance of conformity assessment results (eg. test reports, inspection reports, management system certificates) across the region and with other regions around the world thereby facilitating trade.

Mutual recognition is granted to an accreditation body by APAC after conducting successful peer evaluation as per requirements of ISO/IEC 17011. The evaluation is conducted by APAC using a team of qualified peer evaluators. Members who have undergone successful peer evaluation become Full Members. Associate members are accreditation bodies which are building capacity to become APAC Full Members. APAC also has a membership category of Affiliates. APAC has partnerships with other international bodies (e.g. IAF and ILAC), regional bodies and donor agencies.

## ACCREDITATION SUPPORTS GLOBAL VISION

Accreditation facilitates international free trade by eliminating technical barriers, realizing the goal of

**Competence | Acceptance |  
Equivalence**



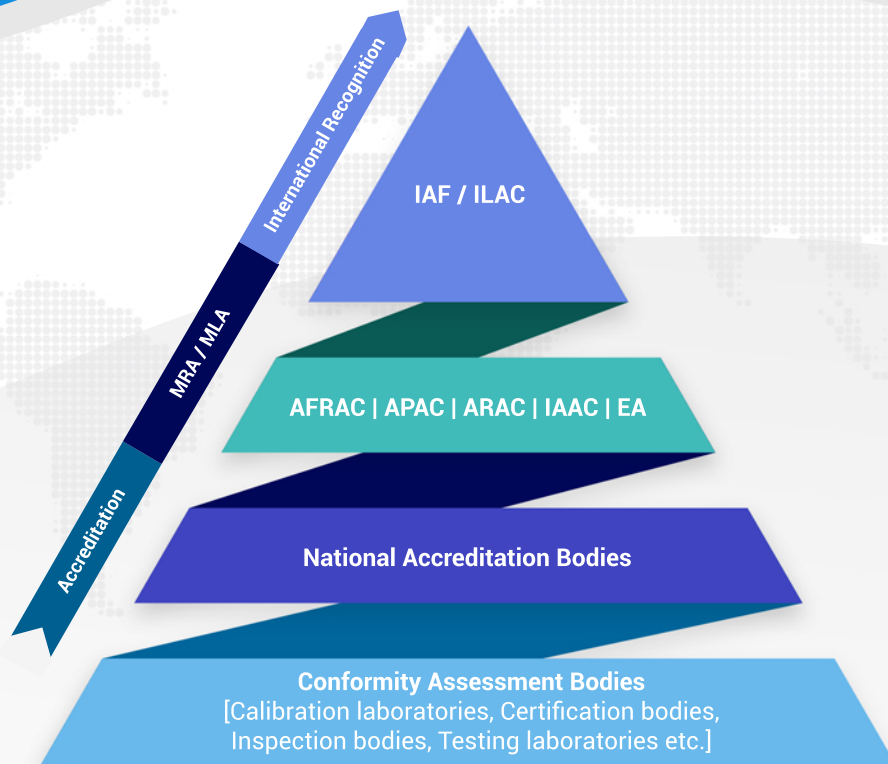
A single worldwide program of conformity assessment which reduces risk for business, regulators and the consumer, by ensuring that accredited services can be relied upon.



# INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION FRAMEWORK

## Regional and International Organizations:

Regional associations of accreditation bodies develop, manage and promote mutual recognition arrangements for accredited conformity assessment results. Regional associations include AFRAC, APAC, ARAC, EA, IAAC, SADCA. These regions mutually recognize each at the international level through the IAF and ILAC.



AFRAC: African Accreditation Cooperation | ARAC: Arab Accreditation Cooperation  
EA: European Accreditation | IAAC: InterAmerican Accreditation Cooperation



## OBJECTIVES OF APAC

- To provide formal acceptance of accreditation bodies in the Asia Pacific region and to establish and maintain recognition by other international and regional organizations.
- To facilitate the reduction of technical barriers to trade by promoting acceptance of the results of conformity assessment activities from conformity assessment bodies (CABs) that are accredited by full members.
- To provide a forum for exchange of information and to promote discussion among accreditation bodies and among organizations that have an interest in accreditation, and related activities.
- APAC harmonises the practices followed by each member economy.



## STAKEHOLDERS IN ACCREDITATION



Consumers



Government  
/ Regulators



Industry  
Sector



Conformity  
Assessment Bodies



Non Government  
Organizations



Scheme  
Owners



International  
Organizations



# BENEFITS OF ACCREDITATION

Ensure products and services are safe, reliable and of high quality.

Creates global system to promote trade.



## ENSURES RELIABILITY AND INTEGRITY

- Demonstrates compliance to Standards / Regulations / Requirements.
- Protects and strengthens the market by ensuring integrity, impartiality of conformity assessment.
- Supports organizations in identifying credible CABs within markets.



## PROVIDES EQUIVALENCE BY MULTILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS

- ABs that are signatories to the MRAs are evaluated through APAC's rigorous approach to peer evaluation and assessment to ensure the equivalence of standards of accreditation.
- **Multi Lateral Arrangements** of ABs with APAC and IAF / ILAC support trade facilitation and provide global access of products, processes, services.



## ENSURES COMPETENCE

- Conformity to requirements of specific standards being practiced by CABs is assessed to ensure competence.
- Qualified experts of accreditation bodies assess technical and management system requirements.



## BENEFITS TO BUSINESS



Confidence in manufacturers that their products meet required criteria.



Improved reputation and credibility gives a competitive edge.



Reduction in technical barriers to trade promotes acceptance of products and services.



Best practice leads to risk minimization, reduced errors and product failure and a culture of continual improvement.



Technical competence is assured.



## BENEFITS TO CONSUMERS

1

### ACCREDITATION CREATES TRUST IN CONSUMERS

Meets the need of people as it verifies products are safe and quality expectations are met.

2

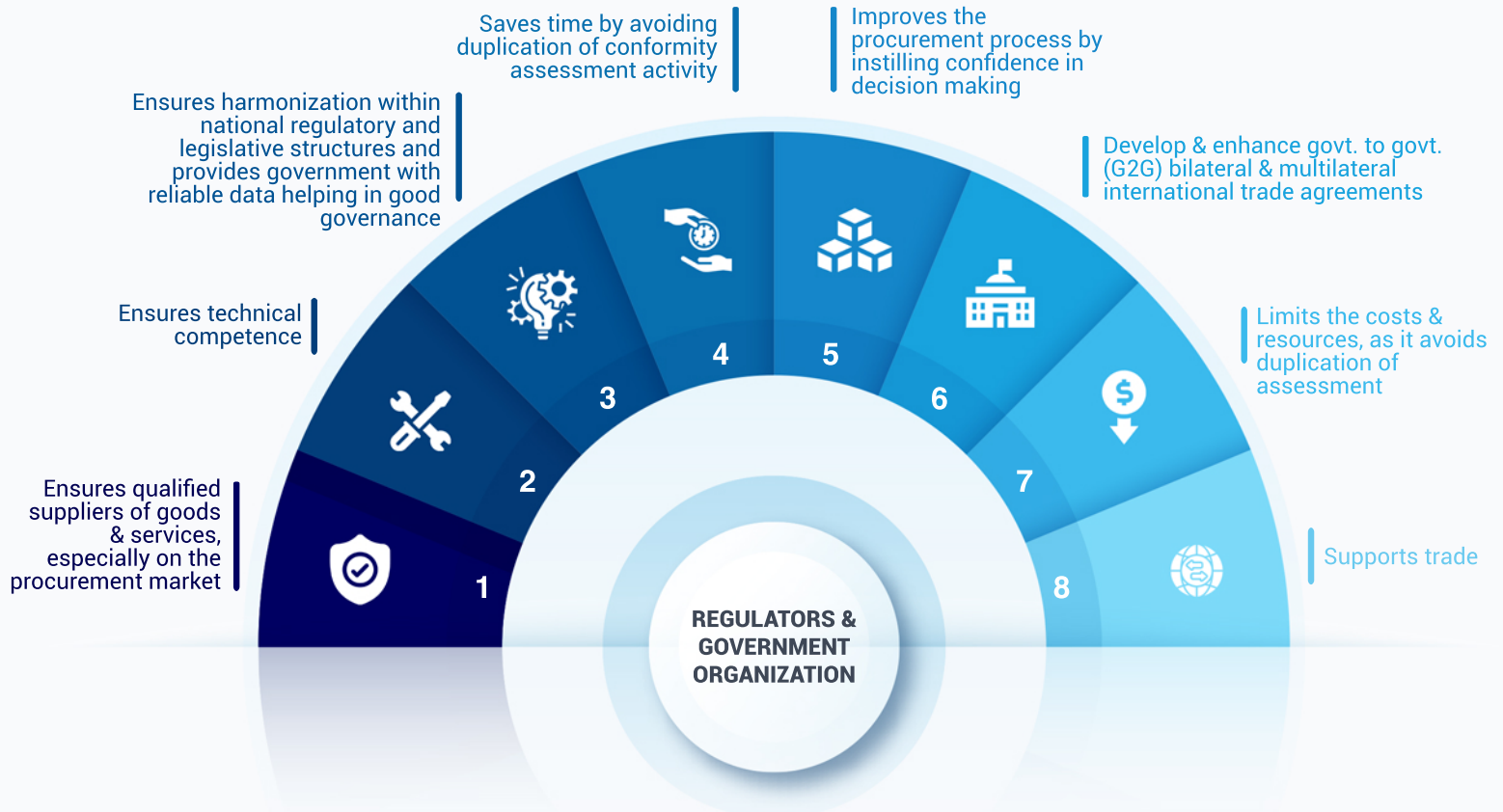
Consumers are assured that the products or services purchased meet the necessary requirements and are suitable for the purpose intended as they are regularly assessed and checked by an independent competent third party thereby reducing uncertainty.





## BENEFITS TO REGULATORS AND GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Regulators can rely on services of accredited conformity assessment bodies recognized under the APAC MRA, as it provides confidence in the following ways:



For success stories, case studies and benefits of mutual recognition, please visit below websites



**Public Sector Assurance**  
[www.publicsectorassurance.org](http://www.publicsectorassurance.org)



**Business Benefits**  
[www.business-benefits.org](http://www.business-benefits.org)

## ACCREDITATION SUPPORTS IMPLEMENTATION OF SDG : PEOPLE, PROSPERITY AND PLANET

