

Today we live in an increasingly borderless world. The free flow of goods and services requires that their conformity to standards and quality be objectively stated. Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) can objectively vouch for this. CABs perform activities which include testing, calibration, certification and inspection.

But, who then, assures regulators, purchasers, consumers and the public that these CABs are competent? In Malaysia, the Department of Standards Malaysia (STANDARDS MALAYSIA), a body under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation provides accreditation services to meet this particular need. STANDARDS MALAYSIA is in the business of competence assessment of CABs and regards accreditation as being the highest level in the conformity assessment hierarchy. Through a system of independent, qualified assessors and an ongoing surveillance programme, STANDARDS MALAYSIA is able to ensure the competence and credibility of CABs. The diagram on the right demonstrates the hierarchy in conformity assessment.

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Accreditation Vs Certification
Accreditation = Competence
Certification = Conformity

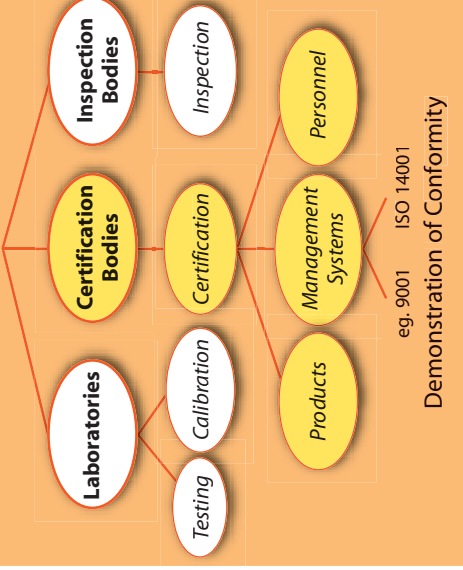
Accreditation bodies assess the competence of CABs. They can facilitate trade by promoting global acceptance of conformity assessment results of accredited CABs through mutual recognition arrangements among the accreditation bodies.

Accreditation Body (STANDARDS MALAYSIA)

Demonstration of Competence

CABs assess conformity of products/services and suppliers to specifications/requirements through activities such as testing, calibration, certification and inspection.

Conformity Assessment Bodies



Purchasers acquire products/services that conform to specifications or buy from suppliers that conform to specific requirements. Regulators may set requirements on products and suppliers. *Note: the word supplier is used to mean provider of products (including services).*

**Products
(Including Services)**

Suppliers

For further information, kindly contact:

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