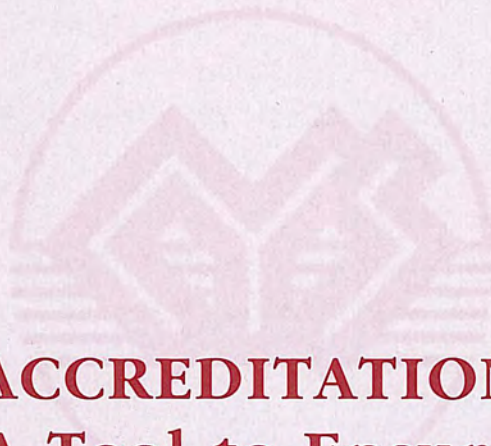




**CYPRUS ACCREDITATION BODY  
CYSAB**



**ACCREDITATION  
A Tool to Ensure  
Reliability  
of Testing**

**CYPRUS ORGANIZATION  
FOR THE PROMOTION OF QUALITY (CYS)**

## **Accreditation is...**

a recognition by an authorized body after an assessment that an institution is competent to carry out specified tasks. Through such an assessment the reliability of the service offered is documented. The case of testing is of great importance, mainly due to requirements introduced by legislation. In many cases such requirements refer to the need of adequate and reliable laboratory infrastructure. This is of interest to all stakeholders i.e. manufacturers and suppliers, traders, conformity assessment bodies and consumers as well as the competent authorities within their responsibilities to ensure the implementation of the law.

Accreditation deals with the technical competence of both the personnel and the infrastructure. This is related not only to the competence itself but to the independence and integrity of the laboratory. The scope is described in a certificate and it may represent only a small part of the overall activities of the body being assessed.

## **Why Accreditation is required**

In today's society the increase of awareness of both the consumers' rights and the responsibilities of the competent authorities underlines the usefulness of accreditation which is, indeed, an indispensable tool for the operation of the single European Market. Accredited Laboratories provide a reliable framework for the free movement of goods over existing frontiers. Cypriot producers selling their products abroad, could document their quality on the basis of the product certificate. As a result, no further testing is carried out in the country of destination provided that the laboratory which has issued the acceptance certificate is an accredited one on the specific activity.



## Cyprus in Europe

National Accreditation Bodies in Europe shall comply with relevant requirements in order to achieve mutual recognition. The Law No 156(I)/2002 on Standardization, Accreditation and Technical Notification specifies that CYS is the authorized body for the operation of the accreditation system in Cyprus. One of the tasks for 2004, namely the full membership in EA (European co-operation for Accreditation), has been met after a unanimous decision of EA General Assembly (Zagreb, November 2004).

## Recent Developments

- The Quality System according to the Standard CYS EN ISO/IEC 17011 is fully implemented.
- A project referring to Accreditation was funded by the European Union (October 2003-March 2004). The contractor was the Accreditation Body of Denmark (DANAK).
- CYS-CYSAB is providing accreditation services to laboratories and other conformity assessment bodies as from the 1st October 2004.
- CYS-CYSAB became an Associate of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC).
- The first accreditation certificate was granted to a laboratory in June 2006.
- The total number of conformity assessment bodies accredited by CYS-CYSAB is fifteen (Autumn 2008), twelve of which are laboratories and three inspection bodies.

## Fields of Application

Accreditation covers

- Laboratories
- Certification Bodies
- Inspection Bodies
- Environmental verifiers
- Notified Bodies (New Approach Directives)

➔ In all cases, relevant standards CYS EN 45000 and CYS EN ISO/IEC 17000 series are used. In the case of laboratories, the new standard CYS EN ISO/IEC 17025 is used, while in the case of medical laboratories the standard CYS EN ISO 15189 is preferred to.

1/2008 (rev.)



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Printed on recycled paper



P.I.O. 312/2008 - 500

Published by the Press and Information Office

Printed: Konos Ltd