

# Accreditation: Increasing the Quality of the Workforce

The **Philippine Accreditation Bureau (PAB)** of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is mandated to accredit certification body, inspection body, testing and calibration laboratories and other bodies offering conformity assessment services:

Accreditation activities offered by PAB are based on international standards. These are:

- Accreditation of Bodies Providing Laboratory Services: ISO/IEC 17025
- Accreditation of Medical Laboratories: ISO 15189
- Accreditation of Inspection Bodies: ISO/IEC 17020
- Accreditation of Management System Certification Bodies: ISO/IEC 17021
- Accreditation of Product Certification Bodies: ISO/IEC 17065
- Accreditation of Personnel Certification Bodies: ISO/IEC 17024

DTI-PAB also promotes accreditation and related activities through information campaign such as briefings, orientation, participation in marketing events; consultations and dialogues with stakeholders.



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**Conformity Assessment** is the testing, analysis, inspection, calibration and certification activities conducted to assess the conformity of products or services to pertinent standards and specified requirements.

In the context of personnel certification, this represents written, oral and practical examinations of a person to demonstrate his/her competency in a profession, an occupation or a job with respect to national/international standards in the relevant field; and granting certificates to those meeting the assessment standards.

### What is the Global market demands?

In this modern age, where work environment is fully competitive with rapid industry development and specialization, the need for using personnel qualified and authorized in their jobs is increasing rapidly. Global markets demand skills and abilities that can be compared across the world. Hence, all workers - practitioners have to demonstrate their excellence, expertise and professionalism.

### What is Personnel Certification?

Personnel certification is an independent assessment and confirmation of the competence of individuals to perform specified services or duties.

Personnel certification ensures that the competencies of employees, suppliers or service and dealer networks are comparable independent of location.

### What is the Role of Accreditation?

To ensure validity, reliability and quality of a certification program, the organization or Certification Body offering this services must be able to demonstrate that its is capable of doing so.

Accreditation is an independent evaluation of organizations or bodies that performs testing, calibration, inspection, and certification against recognized standards to ensure their integrity, impartiality and competence. Through the application of national and international standards, it increases the confidence of consumer and public in the capabilities and competence of the persons providing specialized services.



### Benefits of Accreditation of Certification Body of Person?

World Trade Organization (WTO) requires its member countries to ensure technical competence and transparency of conformity assessments. Accreditation is the primary instrument that ensures the competence of conformity assessment activities.

Certificates granted by an accredited certification body for person becomes an indicator of respectability and reliability. The need for the persons who provide services for various works in our daily lives to have certificates and the obligation to employ persons with accredited certifications imposed by legal authorities for certain occupational groups / occupations, provide a wide customer mass for the certification bodies to be accredited in this field.



Through the accreditation granted by PAB, a person who wants to be certified can easily access a list of technically and methodically competent conformity assessment bodies and receive services in a reliable manner.

### How to become an accredited Certification Body?

A certification body must comply with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17024, an international standards that sets out the requirements for bodies operating certification of persons., and must be able to demonstrate its competence to assess and certify persons for a specific scope.