



Polish Centre for Accreditation in the National and European System of Conformity Assessment

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PCA - legal status


Polish Centre for Accreditation is the national accreditation body authorized by Polish government to accreditation of certification and inspection bodies, testing and calibration laboratories and other entities conducting conformity assessments and verifications.

PCA is a state legal entity supervised by the Minister of Economy.



PCA - legal status

Polish Centre for Accreditation has been appointed as **the only national accreditation body** in the light of the Regulation (EC) No 765/2008.




PCA - legal basis

Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008 setting out the requirements for accreditation and market surveillance relating to the marketing of products;

Act of Parliament of 30.08.2002 on conformity assessment system (Off. J. of 2010, No138, item 935 with changes);

Regulation of the Minister of Finance of 14.06.2012 on the way of establishing fees for the activities related to conformity assessment and accreditation of CAB's (Off. J. of 2012, item 711);

Regulation of the Minister of Economy of 5 October 2011 on endowing the statute to the Polish Centre for Accreditation.



PCA background

In early 90-ties the accreditation processes were conducted independently by two organizations: the Accreditation Office of the Polish Centre for Testing and Certification (PCBC) and the Calibration Laboratories' Accreditation Department of the Central Office of Measures (NMI).

First accreditation certificates were granted:

- testing laboratory – 1992;
- certification body – 1993;
- calibration laboratory – 1997;
- inspection body – 2000.



PCA background

- Due to Polish preparations for the accession to the European Union and arising from that fact obligations, on the basis of PCBC and NMI - Polish Centre for Accreditation was set up;
- PCA took over 430 granted accreditations, experienced and highly qualified personnel, assessors, proved procedures, international relations;
- 2001 to 2004 – supervised by the Chancellery of the President of the Council of Ministers;
- From 2004 – supervised by the Vice President, Minister of Economy.

Scope of activities



According to the Act of Parliament:

- accreditation of CABs;
- surveillance of accredited CABs with regard to their compliance with accreditation requirements;
- maintaining a register of accredited conformity assessment bodies;
- conducting of training in the field of accreditation;
- conducting of publishing activity covering issues connected with accreditation.

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Scope of activities



PCA grant accreditation in regulated and non-regulated areas (voluntary):

- Accreditation in regulated areas – there are used accreditation standards and requirements of legal regulations. PCA cooperate with legislators, i.e. Ministries responsible for: agriculture, environment, health, food safety, infrastructure;
- Accreditation in voluntary areas – cooperation with scheme owners.

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Requirements



PN-EN ISO/IEC 17011:2006 Conformity assessment. General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies;

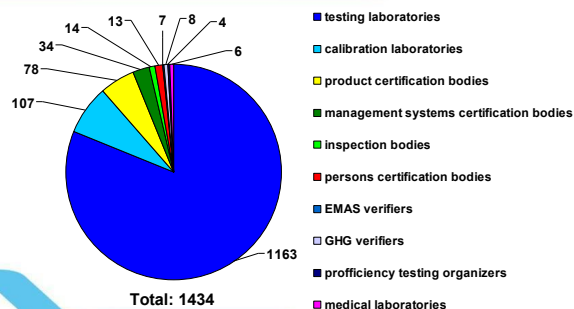
Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008 setting out the requirements for accreditation and market surveillance relating to the marketing of products;

Obligations resulting from the signed multilateral agreements **EA MLA, ILAC MRA, IAF MLA**;

Specific EU regulations concerning sectoral fields of accreditation (eg. EMAS, ETV, GHG).

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Number of accreditations (June 2013)

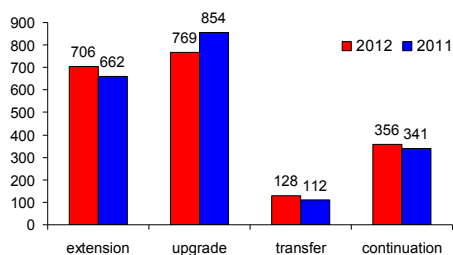


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Surveillance processes



Dynamics of changes in scope of accreditation



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PCA structure



- The Accreditation Council – the structure assuring PCA impartiality;
- The Appeal Committee – appeals from decisions on accreditation;
- Technical Committee for Accreditation – opinions for decisions on accreditation;
- Sectoral Technical Committees (agriculture and food; environment);
- Expert groups (ad hoc groups);
- PCA permanent personnel:
 - The Accreditation Office (consisting of six departments);
 - Supporting personnel (in five departments);
- PCA external personnel (assessors and experts).

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PCA structure



PCA permanent personnel – employed in total 76 persons:

- The Accreditation Office – 56 (including: Testing Laboratories Accreditation Department – 32, Calibration Laboratories Accreditation Department – 6, Certification and Inspection Bodies Accreditation Department – 9);
- Management and supporting departments – 20 persons.

PCA external personnel:

- Lead assessors – 294 (plus 27 trainee lead assessors);
- Technical assessors – 383 (plus 107 trainee technical assessors);
- Experts – 294.

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Multilateral Agreements



EA Multilateral Agreement – in the scope of testing and calibration laboratories, management system certification bodies (QMS, EMS), product and persons certification bodies - **23.09.2004**

- inspection bodies – **14.10.2005**

ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement – in the scope of testing and calibration laboratories – **19.01.2005**

- inspection bodies – **25.10.2012**

IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement - in the scope of management system certification bodies (QMS, EMS) and product certification bodies - **16.02.2005**

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Multilateral Agreements - benefits



- Supporting free movement of goods and services through acceptance of accredited results of certification/ testing/ inspection/ calibration.
- Based on peer-evaluations conducted by NABs evaluation teams – PCA re-evaluation was conducted in April 2012 (positive decision to maintain EA MLA for PCA in all scopes was taken by EA MAC on 24-25 April 2013).
- It is assumed that a conformity assessment body, accredited by national accreditation body – EA MLA signatory – when conducting the activities covered by the scope of accreditation – meet the requirements of the relevant standards.

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Multilateral Agreements - benefits



- It is also the way for elimination the need of repeated assessment of products, services or systems of these bodies.
- A **passport to international trade**.
- Assure the uniform level of competencies of accredited CABs.

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MLA/MRA Marks



PCA accredited CABs can refer to PCA status as MLA/MRA signatory, according to the rules set up in the document **DA-02** (only with accreditation symbol or the appropriate text reference).



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Cross frontier - accreditation policy



In the light of Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 and EA, IAF, ILAC policies the general rule for PCA is conducting the accreditation activity **on the territory of Poland***

*which does not exclude PCA accredited CABs to perform their activities abroad.

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Cross frontier – PCA documentaion



- DA-07 „Policy on Cross-frontier Accreditation” (EA-2/13 „EA Cross Frontier Policy for Cooperation between EA Members).
- IA-15 „Realization of Assessments in the Frame of Subcontracting on Request of Foreign NABs”.

Cross frontier – agreements



- Dutch Accreditation Council (RvA);
- United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS);
- The Danish Accreditation and Metrology Fund (DANAK);
- Deutsche Akkreditierungsstelle GmbH (DAkkS);
- Czech Accreditation Institute (CAI);
- Turkish Accreditation Agency (TURKAK);
- Hellenic Accreditation System (ESYD) – in the process of signing.

International cooperation



Documentation:

- IA-05 „International Cooperation”.
- PCA Director Decision No 190 on appointment of PCA personnel for works in the committees/ working groups by international organizations.

Conclusions resulting from International cooperation (EA, IAF, ILAC):

- Register maintained by International Cooperation Department;
- Decisions are taken during the management meetings.

Work for EA, IAF, ILAC, FALB



PCA employees take part in works of various committees/ working groups:

- EA Executive Committee (EA Ex)
- EA Multilateral Agreement Council (EA MAC)
- EA Horizontal Harmonization Committee (EA HHC)
- EA Inspection Committee (EA IC)
- EA Certification Committee (EA CC)
- EA Laboratory Committee (EA LC)
- EA Communication and Publication Committee (EA CPC)
- EA LC Working Group for Interlaboratory Comparisons in Calibration (EA WG LC ILC in Calibration)

Work for EA, IAF, ILAC, FALB



- EA LC Working Group for Interlaboratory Comparisons in Testing (EA LC WG ILC in Testing)
- EA LC Working Group for Health Care Laboratory Medicine (EA WG HCLM)
- ILAC Arrangement Committee (ILAC ARC)
- ILAC Accreditation Issues Committee (ILAC AIC)
- ILAC Proficiency Testing Consultative Group (ILAC PTCG)
- ILAC AIC Working Group for Forensic Laboratories (ILAC AIC WG10)
- IAF Technical Committee (IAF TC)
- IAF Multilateral Recognition Committee (IAF MLA)
- Forum of Accreditation and Licensing Bodies (FALB)

Thank you