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New PCA accreditation programmes in support of the quality of food

The European Commission attaches great importance to the promotion of the rules of Quality Policy among the EU Member States, with a view to fostering the manufacture and delivery to the market of high-quality food products, including pork, beef and poultry. Therefore the Polish Centre for Accreditation (PCA), following the requests from the Union of Producers and Employers of Meat Industry (UPEMI) and the Polish Association of Beef Cattle Breeders and Producers (PZPBM), appointed two specialist Technical Committees: for Quality Assurance for Food Products (QAFP) and for Quality Meat Program (QMP). Representatives of all the interested parties, such as breeders of cattle, pigs and poultry, consumers, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the PCA, have taken part in the meetings of the Committees. As a result of their strenuous effort put into the project, two documents have been developed:

- 1) the accreditation program for certification bodies providing the QAFP certification according to the standard PN-EN 45011;
- 2) the accreditation program for certification bodies providing the QMP certification according to the standard PN-EN 45011.

The documents lay down detailed rules for accreditation of certification bodies providing the QAFP and QMP certification, because accreditation is the way to confirm they are meeting the requirements of the reference standard PN-EN 45011 as well as the QAFP and QMP quality systems.

The documents define specific requirements that a certification body providing the QAFP or QMP certification needs to meet in order to be considered as credible and competent.