

NABCB highlights role of accreditation in facilitating international trade on World Accreditation Day

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Accredited inspection, testing and certification is not only important for promoting confidence in manufacturers but has become a significant tool in international trade which enables acceptance of certifications and test reports across borders. This was stated by Adil Zainulbhai, chairman, Quality Council of India (QCI) while speaking on the occasion of World Accreditation Day on June 9, 2019 as the Chief Guest in Mumbai.

He also stated that QCI is gaining momentum with its vision to improve quality of life of Indian citizens through supply chain and requested stakeholders to join the momentum.

Speaking on the occasion, Guest of Honour Dr D K Shukla, executive director, Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) said that there is a need to use conformity assessments to ensure reliability of results which are critical in supply chain.

The World Accreditation Day, which is celebrated every year on 9 June, is a global initiative, jointly established by the international bodies, International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) to raise awareness about the importance of accreditation among stakeholders. Each year a theme is finalized and the theme this year focused on how accreditation adds value to supply chains.

Supply chains play a vital role in delivering products and services for consumers, business and the public sector in a timely and cost-efficient manner while upholding high quality. Supply chains are constantly evolving from complex systems crossing multiple borders to new and diverse supply chains aimed at ensuring all stakeholders' requirements are met, including the need for ensuring sustainability and responsible supply.

Accreditation and other quality infrastructure tools such as standards, metrology and conformity assessment, provide widely accepted mechanisms that help deliver value to the supply chain. These tools help with trust and assurance, enabling confidence in both final products and services and the manner in which they are placed in the market and used.

The three accreditation boards under the Quality Council of India- National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB), National Accreditation Board for Education and Training (NABET) and National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) organised the events simultaneously at four locations in Delhi, Mumbai, Guwahati and Chennai. The technical programme featured speakers from government, industry, consultant organisations and conformity assessment bodies to deliberate on managing quality in supply chain and how conformity assessment supports the same.

Presentations from NABCB and NABL highlighted the role of accreditation in assuring significance of inspections, certification bodies and labs. NABCB has accredited about 50 certification bodies and about 60 inspection bodies as per international standards. NABL has accredited around 3,200 testing labs, 900 calibration labs and 1,100 medical labs.

The programme was attended by about over 150 delegates representing government officials, industry, quality professionals, conformity assessment bodies and consultants.

NABCB accredits inspection and certification bodies and has secured international equivalences for its accreditation schemes for inspection, product certification including Global GAP for good agricultural practices and management systems certifications for Quality (ISO 9001), Environment (ISO 14001), Food safety (ISO 22000), Information Security (ISO 27001), Energy Management (ISO 50001) and Occupational Health and Safety (ISO 45001).

It is poised to add international equivalence to its personnel certification programme this year in the annual meeting of the Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation in Singapore next week. Similarly, NABL has obtained international equivalences for its testing, calibration, medical lab, proficiency testing provider and reference material producer accreditation schemes.

India boasts of world class accreditation infrastructure which is leveraged by regulators like Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) in the international trade. The presence of NABCB or NABL logo on a certificate or inspection report or test report signifies that it is accredited and acceptable globally. The programme also highlighted the risks of unaccredited and unauthentic certifications in the market.

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