FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

General	**1. Question:** What is SANAS	**Answer**: The Accreditation Act recognises SANAS as the only National Accreditation Body for the Republic of South Africa for conformity assessment of testing, calibration and verification laboratories, certification bodies, inspection bodies, BBBEE verification agencies and for the monitoring of Good Laboratory Practice.
General	**1. Question:** What is accreditation all about?	**Answer**: Accreditation is the official recognition, by an authoritative third party, that a facility (which we refer to as a Conformity Assessment body (CAB)) is competent to perform specific tasks and has a documented Management System in place to ensure consistent implementation of its processes. An accredited CAB will have demonstrated through formal assessment that it is competent to perform the specific tasks for which accreditation is sought, and that it satisfies both national and international requirements for accreditation.
General	**2. Question:** Does SANAS offer any guidance on accreditation requirements?	**Answer:** Yes. SANAS offers a number of training courses. (For more info http://www.sanas.co.za/tr_courses.php) Also refer to SANAS Document A 03 "General Information on the Accreditation Process", available on the SANAS website.
General	**3. Question:** Where can I purchase a copy of a standard used in accreditation processes?	**Answer:** National and International Standards can be purchased from your local SABS Regional Office. The standard for the accreditation of BEE Verification Agencies is contained in the SANAS document R47 "Accreditation of BEE Verification Agencies", which is available on the SANAS website. Refer to SANAS document A03 "General information on the accreditation process" for the applicable standards for your type of facility or scope of work.
General	**Question:** My organization wants to become accredited. Where do we start?	**Answer:** The first step is to gain an understanding of which standard needs to be implemented. SANAS provides training courses that fulfil this purpose, e.g. the Laboratory Systems courses for ISO/IEC 17025 laboratories. Refer to SANAS services http://home.sanas.co.za/?page_id=211 Once you have an understanding of the standard that applies to your facility, you will be able to establish a management system that at its minimum will fulfil the requirements of the relevant standard. Once you have documented and implemented your management system, you will then be able to apply to SANAS for accreditation. The SANAS information pack (obtained from the relevant Team Assistant) will explain the entire process, and contains all the information you need such as the application process, applicable fees, accreditation process, Accreditation requirements as well as technical guidance documents pertinent to your field of expertise, etc.

		Application for accreditation is done on-line via the SANAS website. You will need to submit your Quality Manual, policies and procedures/specific methods/work instructions. You will also need to clearly define the scope of activities you are seeking accreditation for.
General	**Question:** What are the phases of the application process?	**Answer:** SANAS document A 03 "General Information on the Accreditation Process" briefly explains the phases of the accreditation process. The full detailed process is described in the programme specific P documents. These documents are included in the application information pack, and are also available on the SANAS website. Very briefly, the phases are: • Application and Document Review • Pre-assessment (voluntary for all programmes including Inspection Bodies to ISO/IEC 17020, compulsory for Verification Laboratories, the rest of Inspection Bodies and BBBEE Verification Agencies) • Initial assessment • Decision making as to whether accreditation can be granted • Continued monitoring of accreditation status via surveillance assessments and re-assessments over a fixed accreditation cycle.
General	**Question**: How long does the application process take?	**Answer**: The application process depends on how well you have implemented the management system in accordance with the relevant standard and accreditation requirements. Remember that SANAS is accrediting your facility as a third party and therefore will need to see objective evidence that the facility is producing reliable results/ data consistently. Typically timelines are a minimum of 3-6 months for the whole process up, however a maximum period of 1 year, depending on your state of readiness and the time you take to address any findings identified by SANAS. A fully completed application form submitted with a quality manual written in such a way as to address all the requirements of the relevant standard, and submitted with the policies and procedures/specific methods/work instructions/BEE Codes will ensure that a delay in the initial assessment is not caused. Where gaps have been identified in the Quality manual during the document review stage, you will be given time to address the gaps, before an initial assessment can be arranged. If it's found at the on-site assessment that your facility has a well implemented management system, with trained and competent staff, all the relevant documentation and records are in place, and no non-conformances are raised, the time to obtain accreditation will be much quicker. In the case where non-conformances are raised at the initial assessment, your facility will be given up to 6 months to address the non-conformances. http://home.sanas.co.za/?page_id=348 is a link to the SANAS Accreditation Process Timeframe.

General	**Question:** How much will it cost to become accredited?	**Answer:** The costs for each phase of accreditation is reflected in the P14 "SANAS Fees" document available on the SANAS website (www.sanas.co.za). Fees consist of the application fee, pre-assessment fee, initial assessment fee and the annual fees. Note that the pre-assessment fee is compulsory for facilities where accreditation is mandatory. It is best to contact the relevant Accreditation Manager with a completed application form so that he/she can prepare a cost estimate for the activities you want accredited.
General	**Question:** Does **the dti** charge any fees for accreditation?	**Answer:** No, SANAS is the national body responsible for accreditation. Therefore only SANAS charges accreditation fees.
General	**Question:** Is accreditation mandatory?	**Answer:** Accreditation is voluntary for all calibration and testing (including medical, pharmaceutical, veterinary, forensic and blood transfusion) laboratories, certification bodies and Inspection Bodies falling within a non-regulatory scope. In the case of Verification Laboratories, BBBEE Verification Agencies and all other Inspection Bodies, accreditation is required by South African regulation prior to these facilities being allowed to operate. Please note that the accreditation mechanism may be used by Regulators, public and private companies in their business processes to ensure conformity of products or services. You may therefore encounter that some organizations have accreditation as a requirement when doing business.
General	**Question:** What is the difference between SANAS accreditation and regulatory approval?	**Answer:** Accreditation can be used by a regulator to ensure that a certain conformity assessment activity in a regulation & associated standards is done competently. The regulator may ask for proof of accreditation in order to grant a facility approval to work in a particular regulatory domain.
General	**Question:** How do I know that SANAS is competent to accredit my organisation?	**Answer:** SANAS is a signatory to the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF). The purpose of these organisations is to ensure comparability and acceptance of data amongst its member countries. Every 4 years SANAS undergoes a rigorous peer evaluation process by ILAC and IAF, in order to verify that SANAS continues to comply with the international requirements of an accreditation body, and is able to provide a competent accreditation service. Further details of SANAS' signatory status can be found on: • ILAC: www.ilac.org • IAF: www.iaf.nu
General	**Question:** Does SANAS accredit courses?	**Answer:** No, for the accreditation of courses, please contact SAQA (South African Qualifications Authority) who will be able to provide you

		with the information you require
General	**Question:** Who recognizes accreditation programmes such as SANAS'?	**Answer:** Domestically: SANAS is recognized by the government as the sole accreditation body in South Africa. Regionally: SANAS is recognized as one of the few African accreditation bodies that can offer a wide array of accreditation services. Internationally: SANAS is recognized as a full member of the ILAC and IAF arrangements, which means that results from SANAS accredited facilities are accepted worldwide. • ILAC: www.ilac.org • IAF: www.iaf.nu
General	**Question:** Does recognition of SANAS accreditation programmes extend beyond South Africa?	**Answer:** Yes. SANAS accreditation activities are widely recognized and promotes the global acceptance of South African products and services. SANAS accredited programmes help to open international markets and reduce trade barriers for services and certified products through the use of mutual and multi-lateral recognition of accreditation.
General	**Question:** How does ILAC or IAF recognition benefit my laboratory?	**Answer:** With SANAS being a member of ILAC (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation) and IAF (International Accreditation Forum), results from your accredited laboratory, or certificates issued by an accredited certification body will be accepted at face value by other members of the ILAC or IAF Mutual recognition arrangement. This means that there will be no need to re-test results or re-certify products if they cross the South African borders into countries who are also signatories to ILAC and IAF. • ILAC: www.ilac.org • IAF: www.iaf.nu
General	**Question:** What is the difference between ILAC and IAF, and which one applies to me?	**Answer:** ILAC (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation) and IAF (International Accreditation Forum) are both international bodies with which SANAS has signed MRA's (Mutual Recognition Arrangement). Their function is to ensure that all Accreditation Bodies (such as SANAS) belonging to the MRA operate in a similar fashion, with the same level of competence, and to the same international standard (ISO/IEC 17011). The ILAC MRA applies to inspection bodies, calibration and testing laboratories (including medical, veterinary, pharmaceutical, forensic, blood transfusion, etc.), whereas the IAF MRA applies to Certification Bodies. SANAS programmes that are not covered by the ILAC or IAF MRA's include; Verification Laboratories (Legal Metrology), BBBEE Verification Agencies, Proficiency Testing Service Providers, Producers of Certified Reference Materials, Blood Transfusion Donor Clinics or Blood Banks, Certification Bodies that deal with the certification of Persons, Responsible Tourism, Risk Based Inspection, Energy Management Systems and Greenhouse Gas (GHG).

General	**Question:** How can I get a copy of SANAS' BEE Certificate	**Answer:** Contact the office of Executive: Corporate Services
General	**Question:** Can I use a previous version of a standard instead of the current version	**Answer:** Every new version of a standard has a transition period to allow facilities to review their management system in line with the latest version, and to allow SANAS time to assess the facilities to the new version of the standard. By the end of the transition period, SANAS would no longer provide accreditation to the previous version of the standard. Facilities that have not transitioned to the new version of the standard by the end of the transition period will lose their accreditation. Transition periods are normally 2 years, unless otherwise specified.
General: Applications	**Question:** How do I complete the on-line application	**Answer:** Log onto the SANAS website at www.sanas.co.za On the Home page, click on "Apply for Accreditation" If you have not yet registered, follow the prompts to register, otherwise click Login Select the type of facility you wish to apply for accreditation for. Follow the prompts to complete the application in full. When you submit the application to SANAS, make sure you attach all the required documents and information for your application to be accepted. You are welcome to contact the SANAS office for further assistance
General: Applications	**Question:** My organisation performs both testing and certification services. Which application for accreditation do I complete?	**Answer:** Organisations that apply for accreditation of different scopes (e.g. certification and testing) must complete separate applications in full. I.e. One for Testing and One for certification
General	**Question:** My company requires SANAS to be registered on our vendor database in order for payment to be processed. How long will this process take?	**Answer:** Considering what documents are required to be attached to the vendor form, it can take up to 10 working days to be processed. Should the period be longer, for whatever reason, correspondence will be sent in that regard.
General	**Question:** Does SANAS provide any funding?	**Answer:** SANAS does not provide any funding. Please go to the following departments to inquire about funding: • Small Business Development Department of Trade and Industry (Block A) • Economic Development Isibande (Gender) DTI block G
General	**Question:** Does SANAS have a supplier database that I can register on?	**Answer:** No, SANAS as a Public Entity is required to use the Central Supplier Database of National Treasury. You will need to register as a supplier on their website: www.csd.gov.za

General: Courses	**Question:** Where can I get information about SANAS courses?	**Answer:** SANAS' knowledge centre in Brooklyn, Pretoria provides courses. For further information contact 012 740 8400. Alternatively, the SANAS website at www.sanas.co.za "Training" has information on the courses and workshops that SANAS provides as well as the course schedule for the year. Application for courses can be done on-line via the SANAS website
General: Jobs	**Question:** If I'm interested in a job at SANAS, where do I send my CV to?	**Answer:** SANAS advertises all its posts on Career Junction. The advertisement will include information on who to submit your CV to.
General: Tenders	**Question:** How does SANAS advertise for tenders?	**Answer:** SANAS advertises for tenders on the following platforms: • SANAS website at www.sanas.co.za • Government Tender Bulletin • e-tender portal
General	**Question:** How many offices does SANAS have?	**Answer:** SANAS has 2 offices – the main office at the dti Campus in Sunnyside Pretoria, and the Knowledge Transfer Centre in Brooklyn, Pretoria
General	**Question:** Can I bring a sample in to SANAS for testing or calibration?	**Answer:** No. SANAS does not accept any samples since we are not a testing or calibration laboratory. Samples should be taken to the laboratories that specialise in the testing or calibration services needed. A database of accredited testing and calibration laboratories are available on our website at www.sanas.co.za
General: Proficiency Testing	**Question:** Can SANAS arrange for Proficiency Testing to be done?	**Answer:** No. SANAS' website at www.sanas.co.za however contains a database of Proficiency Testing Service Providers – see under "Accredited facilities' – "Proficiency Testing Register" SANAS does not endorse any proficiency testing schemes listed on our website, it is up to the individual to select the appropriate proficiency testing scheme that suits their needs. SANAS does however, recommend that SANAS Accredited Proficiency Scheme Providers be used, where possible. Check for accredited proficiency testing providers under "Directory of accredited facilities" – "Proficiency Testing".
Verification Laboratories	**Question**: How do I get approval from NRCS Legal Metrology to render services as a Verification Laboratory?	**Answer:** SANAS first conducts a pre-assessment of your laboratory. If the outcome is a satisfactory one, SANAS will issue your organization with a letter of acknowledgement (LoA) with which you must apply to the Regulator (NRCS Legal Metrology) to entrench your system and get temporary approval to carry out verifications. At this stage your organization is not accredited but is given a period of 3 months to demonstrate competence. Within this period SANAS must conduct an Initial assessment to verify technical competence of your laboratory to carry out work under the proposed scope of accreditation. If the outcome of your Initial Assessment is

		satisfactory and approved by the SANAS Approvals Committee, your organization will be granted accreditation and the Regulator will, on application, grant your laboratory approval to operate as a verification laboratory subject to compliance to the requirements of the Trade Metrology Act and Regulations.
Verification Laboratories	**Question:** How do I initiate the application process to become a verification body?	**Answer:** Applications are submitted online via the SANAS website, together with all the relevant documents as required in the application form, i.e. Quality manual based on the requirements of SANS 10378, CV's and certificates of verification officers (VO's).
Inspection Bodies	**Question:** As an Inspection Body, how and when does the Department of Labour (DoL) come into the picture?	**Answer:** If you are a new applicant, SANAS will conduct a pre-assessment at your facility once the review of your Management System Manual has been completed and accepted. SANAS will then issue a Letter of Acknowledgement (LoA) to your facility. With the Letter of Acknowledge as proof of having applied to SANAS, your organisation will need to apply to the DoL for approval to implement your system and start gathering evidence for the Initial Assessment. The Letter of Acknowledgement indicates that your facility is not yet accredited, but has undergone the pre-assessment. If you're an existing entity the same process as described above will be followed, the difference being that the DoL may already have granted "temporary approval" subject to acquiring accreditation in the stipulated time period. The DoL will then grant full approval when the facility is accredited.
BBBEE Verification Agencies	**Question:** How do I get accredited by SANAS to render services as a B-BBEE Verification Agency?	**Answer:** Once your Management System Manual has been reviewed and accepted by SANAS, an Initial Assessment visit will be arranged and carried out at your head office. SANAS conduct an Initial Assessment to verify technical competence of your Verification Agency to carry out work under the proposed scope of Accreditation. When the results of your Initial Assessment is finalised as satisfactory by the assessment team and the SANAS Approvals Committee, your organisation will be accredited to operate as a Verification Agency subject to compliance to the requirements of R47, Codes of Good Practice and the Verification Manual.
Testing / Calibration Laboratory	**Question:** My laboratory is ISO 9001 certified. Why do I need to be accredited to ISO/IEC 17025?	**Answer:** The emphasis of ISO 9001 is to establish compliance with *quality management systems* requirements. ISO/IEC 17025 includes additional technical requirements for laboratory personnel and operations. Being certified to ISO 9001 should not be interpreted to imply compliance to ISO/IEC 17025. A laboratory's fulfilment of the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025 means the laboratory meets both the technical competence requirements and management system requirements that are necessary for it to consistently deliver technically valid test results and calibrations. The management system requirements in ISO/IEC 17025 are written in language relevant to laboratory operations and meet the principles of ISO 9001 Quality Management System – Requirements and are aligned with its pertinent requirements.

GLP/GCP	**Question :** What are the OECD Principles of Good Laboratory Practice (GLP)?	a) The Principles of Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) are a managerial quality control system covering the organisational process and the conditions under which non-clinical health and environmental studies are planned, performed, monitored, recorded and reported. The OECD Principles of GLP are followed by *test facilities* carrying out studies to be submitted to national authorities for the purposes of assessing the health and environmental safety of chemicals and chemical products which may also be of natural or biological origin and, in some circumstances, may be living organisms. Depending on the jurisdiction, the Principles of GLP can also be applied to non-clinical safety testing of other regulated products, such as medical devices. b) The Principles of GLP define the responsibilities of test facility management, study personnel and quality assurance personnel that are operating within a GLP system, and minimum standards concerning the suitability of facilities and equipment to perform studies, the need for standard operating procedures, documentation of raw data, study reports, the archiving of records, etc.
GLP/GCP	**Question :** What types of tests are carried out at test facilities under GLP?	a) The OECD Principles of GLP concern "*non-clinical*" testing of a chemical or chemical product, examined under laboratory conditions or in the environment, including work conducted in greenhouses and in the field. They do not include studies which use human subjects. b) b) Examples of studies carried out under GLP include, *inter alia*: *physical-chemical testing; toxicity studies; mutagenicity studies; environmental toxicity studies on aquatic and terrestrial organisms; studies on behaviour in water, soil and air; bioaccumulation; studies to determine pesticide residues in food or animal feedstuffs; studies on effects on mesocosms and natural ecosystems; and analytical and clinical chemistry testing.*
GLP/GCP	**Question :** What types of chemicals / chemical products are covered under the OEC Principles of GLP?	a) The OECD Principles of GLP apply to the non-clinical safety testing of test items contained in: *pharmaceutical products; pesticide products (including biocides); cosmetic products; veterinary drugs; food additives; feed additives; and industrial chemicals.* Depending on the jurisdiction, the Principles of GLP may also be applied to non-clinical safety testing of other regulated products, such as medical devices. b) Under **GLP**, a *"test item"* is the article that is the subject of a study, and is frequently a synthetic chemical, but may be of natural or biological origin and, in some circumstances, may be living organisms. While the test item is the subject of a study, other testing *associated* with the test item and part of the test study (e.g., biological samples which are taken and analysed for the content of a test item and/or its metabolites) still need to be conducted under GLP. (*Note*: The term "*test chemical*" has been applied in new and updated OECD Test Guidelines since 2013 to designate what is being tested. However, it is important to note that previously adopted OECD Test Guidelines still use the terms "test item", "test compound", "test substance" or other similar terms to describe what is being tested. The term "*test chemical*" is

		without prejudice on the applicability of the Test Guideline to individual chemical substance or mixtures; in case of restrictions, the Guideline will clarify what these are in the *Limitations* section.")
GLP/GCP	**Question :** How can test facilities be recognised as GLP-compliant?	Any test facility that conducts non-clinical health and safety studies (e.g., a university, research institute, private enterprise, government, etc.) can become OECD GLP-compliant or recognised. (This includes facilities in OECD member countries as well as non-OECD economies who become full adherents to the Mutual Acceptance of Data (MAD) system – *see* Section II below.) In most countries, facilities that wish to become recognised as GLP compliant can apply to the government CMP. The CMP then conducts an inspection to determine if the facility complies with the OECD Principles of GLP. In other countries, CMPs can inspect any test facility claiming to conduct studies according to GLP.
GLP/GCP	**Question :** Why are the OECD Principles of GLP needed?	a) In the 1970's, prior to the introduction of GLP, some governments discovered fraudulent studies had been submitted by testing laboratories to regulatory authorities. As a result, OECD governments decided that there would be value in developing a set of *principles* – applied across all OECD countries – concerning the generation of quality test data. This would ensure that before making regulatory decisions concerning the safety of chemicals that will enter the market (or are already on the market), governments would have confidence that the data upon which they make their decisions is valid and of high quality. b) Through standards built into the OECD Principles of GLP which allow the "traceability" of studies, CMP inspectors who visit test facilities can audit the results of a study long after it has been completed. This provides another level of confidence to regulators about the validity and integrity of data they are reviewing. c) Further, as the application of GLP is harmonised across OECD countries, governments can accept data from other countries with the assurance that it will be valid and of high quality. (See discussion of the Mutual Acceptance of Data (MAD) system below.)
GLP/GCP	**Question :** Are authorities actually inspecting test facilities?	Yes. Government CMPs conduct periodic inspections of test facilities within their country and perform random study audits.
GLP/GCP	**Question :** What is the difference between OECD Principles of GLP and ISO/IEC 17025?	**Answer :** OECD Principles of Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) is a quality system involving the organisational process and the conditions under which non-clinical health and environmental safety studies are planned, monitored, recorded, archived and reported. ISO/IEC 17025 is an international standard that specifies the requirements for competence to carry out tests and/or calibrations. It covers testing and calibration performed using standard, non-standard methods and laboratory developed methods. ISO/IEC 17025 relates to testing and calibration laboratories and so is not applicable to non-testing or non-calibration laboratory activities. However, the ISO/IEC 17025 management system elements can be used to interpret elements of GLP such as management responsibility, QA programme and SOP

		documentation.
GLP/GCP	**Question:** What is the difference between GLP and GCP?	**Answer:** Good Clinical Practice (GCP) is an international ethical and scientific quality standard for designing, conducting, recording and reporting trails that involve the participation of human subjects. Compliance with the standard provides public assurance that the rights, safety and well-being of trial subjects are protected, consistent with the principles that have their origin in the Declaration of Helsinki and that the trial data is credible. GLP is a quality system concerned with the organisation process and the conditions under which non-clinical health and environmental safety studies are planned, monitored, recorded, archived and reported. The difference between GLP and GCP is that the former is for nonclinical health and environmental safety studies whereas the latter is for clinical studies.
Medical Laboratory	**Question:** As a medical laboratory, how do I know whether I need ISO 15189 or ISO/IEC 17025?	**Answer:** ISO 15189 is the required standard for the accreditation of Medical Laboratories. SANAS no longer accepts applications for medical laboratory accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025.
BBBEE	**Question:** How do I verify if a BEE certificate is valid?	**Answer:** The SANAS website, under "Directory of Accredited Facilities" contains a database of all SANAS accredited facilities, per programme. If the organisation is not listed, it means it's not SANAS accredited. SANAS will also indicate on the database whether a facility is accredited, or whether their accreditation is suspended or withdrawn. If you are still not sure as to whether a facility is accredited, please contact the SANAS office.
Certification & V/V Bodies (GHG)	**Question:** What is certification?	**Answer:** Certifications are sought from conformity assessment bodies to demonstrate the applicant's compliance with specified standards and defined by the ISO as a third-party attestation related to products, processes, systems or persons. Certification involves a formal process by which an accredited or authorized person or agency assesses and verifies (and attests in writing by issuing a certificate) the attributes, characteristics, quality, qualification, or status of individuals or organizations, goods or services, procedures or processes, or events or situations, in accordance with established requirements or standards.
Certification & V/V Bodies (GHG)	**Question:** What is a CB?	**Answer:** Certification Body (CB) is an organisation that certifies other organisations in respect of the compliance of management systems, schemes or products with recognised specifications or standards In essence, certifications are third-party endorsements of an organization's systems or products, while accreditation is a third-party endorsement of the certification.
Certification	**Question:**	**Answer:**

& V/V Bodies (GHG)	Who benefits from accredited certification?	1. Certification bodies 2. Government and other interested parties 3. Clients of certification bodies (client organisations that provide goods and services and that want to be certified) 4. End consumers of certified products and services (retailers, wholesalers and the individual consumer). Accreditation adds value to the ever growing and increasingly complicated market chain in many ways, including by providing a symbol of assurance that certifiers are independent and competent to perform their duties.
Certification & V/V Bodies (GHG)	**Question:** One of my suppliers has a certificate from a body that does not appear to be accredited, - is it valid?	**Answer:** SANAS is aware of the existence of non-accredited bodies offering services that could potentially be accredited. In many sector accreditation is voluntary and there is not legal requirement to be accredited therefore the organisation is not operating illegally, however SANAS is unable to offer any comment on whether their services will meet your requirements. [However SANAS accreditation provides consumers and businesses with confidence that the service or products they are purchasing, should meet expected South African and international standards and that the organisation is competent to conduct its activities. As such many organisations including most areas of SA government rely upon accredited organisations to ensure quality in their supply chain. As a result it may not be possible for supplier of unaccredited services to be part of these supply chains.]
Certification & V/V Bodies (GHG)	How does accredited certification benefit my business / organization?	1. Improve your products or system's quality and safety 2. Demonstrate your market accountability 3. Bring you global recognition 4. Reduce costs and increase efficiency 5. Reduce your risk 6. Offer you a competitive advantage
Certification & V/V Bodies (GHG)	**Question:** Will Certification activities or V/V activities and the provision of training constitute a conflict of interest that would prevent CB's from receiving the relevant Accreditation or providing certification services?	**Answer:** A key factor in relation to the delivery of certification and V/V services is the ability of the Certification or V/V Body to be independent and impartial. Where a CB is an independent entity but parts of its larger parent organization provides training or advisory services, conflict of interest may exist. Provision of training/advisory services by the CB's organization would not necessarily prevent accreditation being obtained, but the CB or V/V Body would need to demonstrate how its organizational structures, systems and processes eliminates or reduces the potential conflict. Training is common practice for many Certification Bodies to offer standardized training on a variety of topics related to systems, processes and products that they certify or verify (for example, management systems internal auditor training). So provision of related training would not automatically prevent accreditation, but the Certification Body/ V/V Body would need to demonstrate that it provides standard training to all training clients and that there is no bespoke adjustment of training materials and courses to tailor it to the needs of a specific client.
Certification & V/V	**Question:** I want to become an	**Answer:** The Registry recognizes that as part of the accreditation process,

Bodies (GHG)	accredited Verification Body but do not have any Registry Reporter clients, how can I achieve the necessary witnessed visits?	applicant Verification Bodies must conduct verification activities for a GHG Reporter, at their site(s) in order to have a basis for Accreditation Body's witness activities. In an effort to facilitate the accreditation process, the Registry, for an initial period, will seek to support applicants undertaking this accreditation task by allowing applicant Verification Bodies that have not yet received final accreditation from their selected Accreditation Body, and which are having problems gaining a Reporter as a client before accreditation, to conduct verification services in advance of accreditation for a maximum of one Registry Reporter for each scope for which they have applied for accreditation. In order to do this the Registry will facilitate a contact between such Verification Bodies and suitable Reporters looking for verification. However, if the applicant Verification Body does not subsequently receive accreditation within nine months of the rendering of a Verification Statement, the Verification Statement will not be accepted by the Registry. In such a case, the Verification Body will be liable for the costs of the verification services it provided to the Reporter. This may include repayment of the fees it received from the Reporter or another arrangement that it reaches with the affected client. This liability must be explicitly included as a contractual term between the applicant Verification Body and the Reporter. Applicant Verification Bodies interested in being matched with Registry Reporters should contact the Registry directly.
Certification & V/V Bodies (GHG)	**Question:** If I am currently certified for a management system or my product is approved by a SANAS accredited CB that has been suspended. Is my certificate for management systems/product approval still valid & recognised as accredited certification or not during this suspension period?	**Answer:** As described in SANAS R51 "Suspensions, Withdrawals and re-instatement of accredited or GLP/GCP compliant organisations", a certification body may not issue any certificates for management systems / product certification with the SANAS logo indicating accredited certification has been granted. This means that if your recertification audit/Stage 2 audit and the approvals process (decision to grant) has been completed prior to the CB's suspension, your certificate is still recognised. If you achieve certification during the CB's suspension period, unfortunately your management system /product certification status is not recognised by SANAS.
Certification & V/V Bodies (GHG)	**Question:** Are there any restrictions in terms of which organizations can provide Product Certification in accordance with ISO 17065 and can anyone apply for Product Certification?	**Answer:** Any legal entity can apply for Product Certification for the provision of product certification activities against relevant specifications provided there is one or more schemes that operates in accordance with ISO 17065 and 17067 and that there is a scheme owner(s). However, if the product, process, service is regulated, additional conditions may apply.