



AFRAC EXTENDS MRA TO FOOD SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

In line with the African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC) objective of developing and implementing the AFRAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA), AFRAC is extending its Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) to include Food Safety Management System. Food safety is concerned with the handling, preparation and storage of foods in ways that prevent food-borne illness. Food safety is a continuing concern, with major recalls of food products and outbreaks of foodborne diseases occurring with alarming regularity.

The launch of the MRA at the 9th AFRAC General Assembly held in Balaclava Fort, Mauritius aims at providing an internationally recognized accreditation scheme that supports trade in food and food products within Africa and beyond. Considering that food hazards can be introduced at any stage of the food chain, adequate control of these hazards in food is very important to the safety of the consumers which we all are when it comes to food. Moreover, with the realization that food and food products are crossing boundaries, the AFRAC MRA provides for 'Confidence and Trust' in the quality and safety of food products originating from Africa.

AFRAC is committed to encouraging and facilitating the adoption and implementation of credible conformity assessment standards and guidelines that enhance health, safety and environment. Accreditation bodies that become signatories to this MRA provide accreditation to certification bodies that offer ISO 22000 Food Safety Management Systems Certification and whose competence has been checked in line with ISO/TS 22003. The first AFRAC MRA signatories to FSMS are:

- Egyptian Accreditation Council (EGAC)
- Kenya Accreditation Service (KENAS)
- South African National Accreditation System (SANAS)

This initiative will also contribute towards the ending of poverty in Africa as agriculture and agribusiness have been identified as a major determinant in maintaining and boosting high economic growth rates, creating more jobs, food security and export. It is expected that this MRA will boost the trade volume and export of unprocessed and processed food products in Africa.



“AFRAC - Confidence & Trust”

AFRAC Marketing & Communications Committee

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