Bureau of Standards Jamaica

National Accreditation Focal Point of Jamaica

CARICOM REGIONAL ORGANISATION FOR STANDARDS & QUALITY

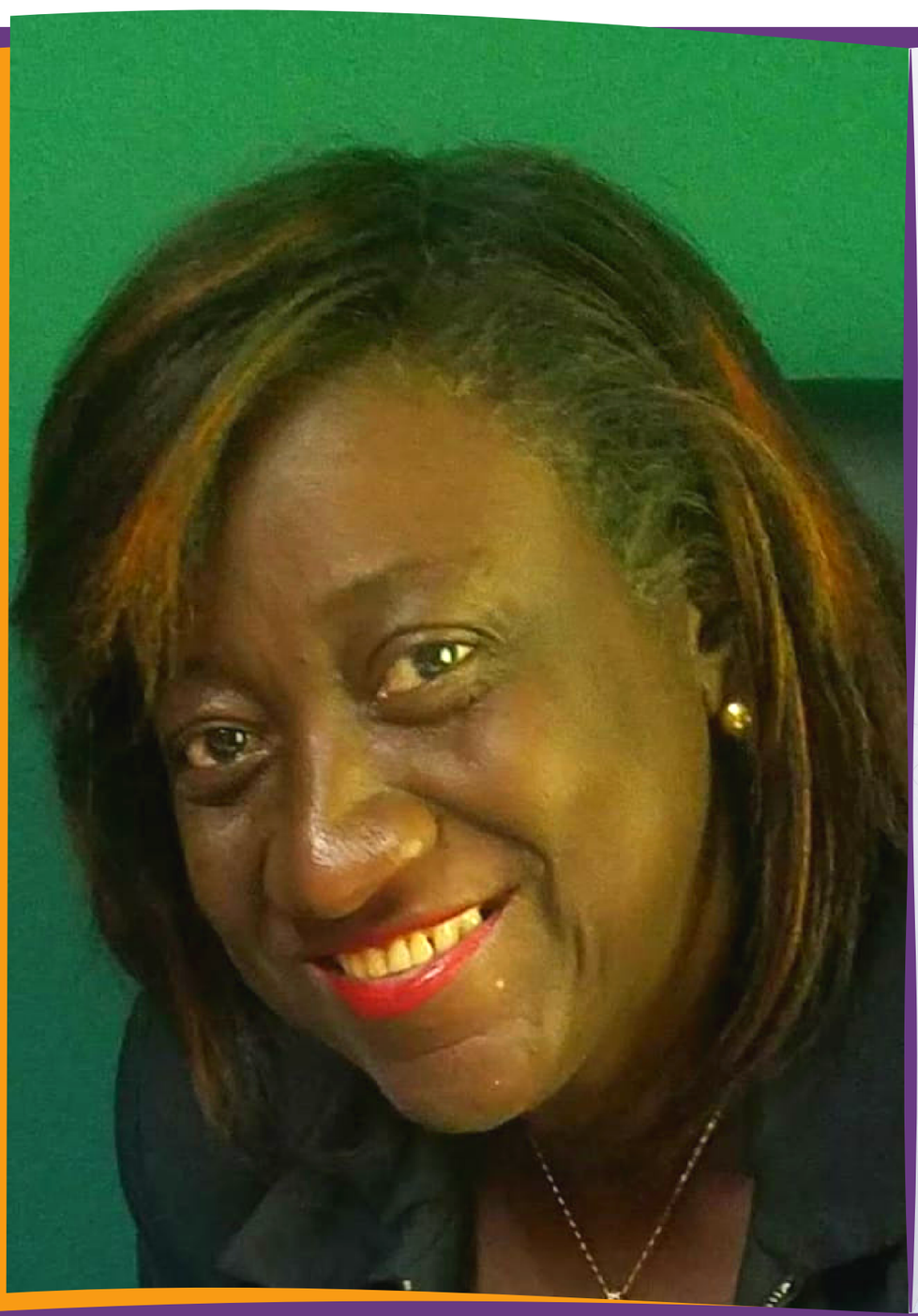
CROSQ

GETTING TO KNOW

THE NATIONAL ACCREDITATION FOCAL POINT JAMAICA (NAFP JA)



MEET THE OFFICERS OF THE NAFP JA:





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WHAT IS THE "NAFP JA" ?

The National Accreditation Focal Point Jamaica (NAFP JA) is a function of the CARICOM Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) that is authorized for accommodation and service provision by the Bureau of Standards Jamaica (BSJ).

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE NAFP JA ?

The National Accreditation Focal Point Jamaica (NAFP JA) is focused on providing assistance to organizations that provide conformity assessment services such as Laboratories, Inspection Bodies and Certification Bodies. These organizations are collectively referred to as Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs). The NAFP JA has the role to assist CABs that are interested in fulfilling the requirements of international accreditation standards. These standards are the :

1. ISO 15189:2012, Medical laboratories — Requirements for quality and competence
2. ISO/IEC 17025:2017, General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories
3. ISO/IEC 17020:2012, Conformity assessment — Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection
4. ISO/IEC 17021:2011, Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems













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WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE NATIONAL ACCREDITATION FOCAL POINT JAMAICA(NAFP JA) AND THE BUREAU OF STANDARDS JAMAICA (BSJ)?

The Bureau of Standards Jamaica (BSJ) being the National Standards Body (NSB) and also the National Metrology Institute (NMI) of Jamaica, is considered to be the national agency that is most suitable to accommodate the intended facilitatory services of the National Accreditation Focal Point Jamaica (NAFP JA). Such services include the facilitation of consultancy, tailor made or In-plant/onsite and/or public training, advisory, measurement related and other technical services that are related to assisting organizations to meet the requirements of international standards.

WHAT IS THE ORIGIN OR REASON FOR THE NAFP ESTABLISHMENT?

The National Accreditation Focal Point (NAFP) is one of a network of similar entities introduced in the CARICOM Region under a project by CROSQ, the EC-CARIFORUM /Caribbean Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (CLAS) Project, funded by the 9th European Development Fund (EUROS 785K) entitled “Support for the implementation of the Caribbean Laboratory Accreditation Service” That project had the objective of assisting medical laboratories to implement Management Systems to decrease and eliminate the high incidence of errors that was reported to occur widely and frequently in such labs (World Health Organization 2000 Report).

Worldwide, accreditation was becoming increasingly accepted and used by medical laboratories, since compared to the typical ISO 9001 Quality Management System (QMS) conventionally used by medical labs and accreditation based laboratories; QMS was being regarded as superior. The Caribbean Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (CLAS) Project was successfully concluded and saw to the establishment of the National Accreditation Focal Point (NAFP) in either the Health Ministries or NSBs in CARICOM countries, to give much needed support to the Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) that were preparing for accreditation or at least, seeking to implement the related international standard. In summary therefore, NAFPs were originally created to assist medical labs seeking accreditation but quickly expanded their scope to assist testing labs, inspection and certification bodies, as the critical role of accreditation in supporting general trade worldwide became evident and internationally accepted.

IS A NAFP THE SAME AS A NATIONAL ACCREDITATION BODY (NAB)?

No, a National Accreditation Focal Point (NAFP) is not the same as a National Accreditation Body (NAB). Whereas the NAB promotes accreditation and provides accreditation services (information, training, assessment and award of accreditation), the NAB also promotes accreditation but provides preparatory services for accreditation. An NAFP will therefore have either one or two types of main roles as follows:

1. To coordinate the activities and provision of information and accreditation-support or accreditation preparation services in CARICOM countries that do not have a NAB.

2. To provide accreditation facilitation services to Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) that are preparing to seek accreditation from a NAB, or at least, seeking to fulfill the requirements of an international accreditation standard to have improved operations.

The National Accreditation Focal Point's (NAFP's) role is a support role to the role of the National Accreditation Body (NAB) which provides accreditation services I.e. accreditation information, accreditation training and accreditation assessment to determine the CAB's readiness for accreditation. The NAB can grant accreditation to a CAB but the NAFP cannot. The NAFP assists the CABs preparation for accreditation because a NAB cannot assist the CAB to prepare for accreditation and then assess it's own work to grant accreditation. Internationally, this would be considered a conflict of interest and goes against international trade agreements.

IS A NAFP THE SAME AS A NATIONAL ACCREDITATION BODY (NAB)? (CONT'D)

The National Accreditation Focal Point Jamaica (NAFP JA) has the role described in 2. since Jamaica does have a National Accreditation Body (NAB) and is a part the National Quality Infrastructure (NQI) of Jamaica, working in collaboration with other NQI organizations such as the National Accreditation Body (NAB), National Standards Body (NSB), the National Metrology Institute (NMI), and Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) to maintain standards and provide quality goods and services for trade. The NAFP JA is also a part of a network of NAFPs, now coordinated by the recently established Caribbean Cooperation for Accreditation (CCA), CARICOM Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ).

WHY CCA, CROSQ ?

Eventually, as the CARICOM Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) worked to improve the Regional Quality Infrastructure and harmonize the service provided by NAFPs, the Caribbean Cooperation for Accreditation (CCA) was established. The goal of the CCA is to assist the facilitation of trade within the Caribbean Region and Internationally through the use of Accreditation. It is based on the principles of mutual cooperation and collaboration among the recognized National Accreditation Bodies (NABs), NAFPs and CROSQ Secretariat and the coordination of support services by these entities through the CROSQ Secretariat.

CROSQ is the regional centre for promoting efficiency and competitive production in goods and services, through the process of standardization and the verification of quality in the Caribbean. The NAFP JA is therefore working with the goal of CROSQ in our effort to assist organizations, CABs and others, to improve the quality and/or technical competence of its operations. In so doing we help the organization to prepare to improve its successes in trade.

WHAT IS THE COST FOR NAFP JA SERVICES?

There is no charge for registration and request for National Accreditation Focal Point Jamaica (NAFP JA) assistance and also no charge for the services that are given to you by NAFP JA officers. A charge is only made to clients who need training or other technical service or consultancy that has to be provided by specialists who are external to the NAFP JA and wider BSJ staff team. The NAFP JA will discuss and agree with you regarding the specific set of services that you will need before any service is delivered. We only provide what you formally agree with us that you need or want to have.

HOW DOES ONE GET NAFP JA SERVICES ?

Our standard operating procedure requires that the prospective client submits a completed National Accreditation Focal Point Jamaica (NAFP JA) Registration and Service Request Form. The services that are provided by its officers under this programme are:

(1) **Quality Management System templates:**
   A. ISO 15189
   B. ISO/IEC 17025
   C. ISO/IEC 17020
   D. ISO/IEC 17021

(2) **Quality Management System Self-Assessment Checklist:**
   A. ISO 15189
   B. ISO/IEC 17025
   C. ISO/IEC 17020
   D. ISO/IEC 17021

(3) Training Needs Assessment

(4) Coaching

(5) Facilitation of Consultancy

(6) Gap Analysis

(7) Internal Audit

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