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GAS.G-02:2025

Policy on the use of GAS accreditation marks and references

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0. FOREWORD

This Policy establishes the rules and conditions for the use of GAS accreditation marks and references by accredited bodies, partners, and other entities that refer to GAS accreditation or cooperation with the GAS Accreditation Agency.

The purpose of this document is to:

- ensure the correct, accurate, and unambiguous use of GAS marks;
- prevent misleading consumers, partners, and the public;
- protect confidence in the accreditation system and its international recognition;
- prevent any statements that may be misinterpreted as approval, guarantee, or certification of products, processes, or personnel by the GAS Accreditation Agency.

This Policy is mandatory for all accredited conformity assessment bodies, including certification bodies, laboratories, and inspection bodies, as well as for any other entities referring to GAS accreditation.

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF APPLICATION

1.1 This Policy defines:

- the procedure for using the official GAS accreditation mark;
- the requirements for textual references to accreditation;
- the prohibitions, limitations, and liability for violations of these rules.

1.2 This Policy applies to:

- bodies and laboratories accredited by GAS;
- applicants for accreditation (within limited forms of communication);
- partners and information platforms that disseminate data about accreditation;
- third parties authorized to use the mark under separate GAS agreements.

1.3 The Policy **does not permit** the use of GAS marks by:

- manufacturers of products;
- bodies or laboratories that do not hold GAS-accredited status;
- consultants and training companies (except in officially approved partnerships);
- any person or entity that directly or indirectly advertises a product or service as “approved by GAS.”

2. NORMATIVE AND REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

This Policy is based on the requirements and principles of the following normative documents:

2.1 International standards:

- **ISO/IEC 17011** — Conformity assessment — Requirements for accreditation bodies;
- **ISO/IEC 17021-1** — Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems.

2.2 Internal GAS documents:

- **GAS.G-01:2025** — Code of Ethics for Experts, Assessors, and GAS Personnel;
- **GAS.G-03:2025** — Policy on Conflict of Interest and Impartiality;
- **GAS.G-04:2025** — Procedure for Appeals and Complaints.

3. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Policy, the following key terms apply:

GAS Accreditation Agency — an international accreditation system that establishes requirements, rules, and mechanisms for the recognition of conformity assessment bodies and laboratories.

GAS Accreditation — the official recognition of a body's or laboratory's competence to perform specified tasks in accordance with GAS criteria.

GAS Accreditation Mark — a registered official graphical symbol confirming the accreditation status of a body or laboratory, used in accordance with the requirements of this Policy.

Applicant for Accreditation — a body or laboratory that has submitted an application for GAS accreditation and is undergoing the assessment process.

Improper Use of the Mark — any use of the GAS Accreditation Mark or reference to accreditation that:

- misleads regarding the accreditation status;
- does not correspond to the scope of accreditation;
- violates the requirements of this Policy;
- may harm the reputation of GAS.

Reference to Accreditation — any statement in documents, digital media, or communications confirming the accreditation status of a body or laboratory, which must comply with the established GAS rules.

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4. RULES FOR THE USE OF THE ACCREDITATION MARK AND REFERENCES TO GAS

4.1 General Provisions

The Accreditation Mark of the GAS Accreditation Agency (hereinafter referred to as the *GAS Mark*) may be used exclusively by accredited conformity assessment bodies, including certification bodies, inspection bodies, and testing/calibration laboratories, within the scope of their accreditation.

Use of the GAS Mark serves as confirmation of accreditation status and shall not be interpreted as confirmation of compliance of any products, services, personnel, or management decisions of a client of the accredited body.

Use of the GAS Mark is:

- **Mandatory** — on official outgoing documents confirming the results of activities covered by the accreditation, including:
  - certificates of conformity of management systems;
  - certificates of conformity of products/services (where applicable);
  - test reports;
  - calibration certificates;
  - inspection and control reports.
- **Voluntary** — in marketing, informational, and communication materials, such as:
  - websites and social media;
  - advertising brochures;
  - presentations;
  - corporate profiles and company guides.

In all cases, the use of the GAS Mark shall be in full compliance with this Policy.

4.2 Use of the GAS Mark and References by Applicants for Accreditation

Bodies undergoing the accreditation process **are permitted** to publicly state the fact of being under evaluation only using the following approved formulations:

- “The body is undergoing the accreditation procedure of the GAS Accreditation Agency”;
- “In the process of GAS accreditation.”

Use of the GAS Mark or any other GAS graphical identifiers **is prohibited** until official accreditation status is granted.

4.3 Permitted Formats of the GAS Mark

Only the official graphical version of the GAS Mark provided by the GAS Accreditation Agency may be used.

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Permitted versions:

- full-color version;
- black-and-white version (only when required for technical reproduction).

It is prohibited to:

- alter proportions, colors, fonts, or design elements;
- apply effects (shadows, outlines, transparency, etc.);
- integrate the mark into the logo of the body or onto products;
- use parts or fragments of the mark.

Minimum dimensions, placement, and background requirements are specified in Annex A to this Policy.

4.4 Use of QR Verification

The GAS Mark shall be accompanied by a QR code linking to the official GAS register webpage confirming the accreditation status of the body or laboratory.

4.5 Prohibited Use

The GAS Mark and references to accreditation shall not be used for:

a) confirming the conformity of products, goods, or services;
b) marketing or advertising of consulting activities;
c) creating the impression of “approval,” “endorsement,” or “recommendation” by GAS;
d) inclusion on personal business cards or staff résumés;
e) any context that may mislead consumers.

4.6 Responsibility for Correct Use

The accredited body or laboratory bears full responsibility for the correct application of the GAS Mark in all materials.

In case of any doubts regarding the format or context of use, the body or laboratory shall consult the GAS Accreditation Agency for clarification.

5. CONTROL OF COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT MEASURES

5.1 Monitoring Compliance with the Policy

The GAS Accreditation Agency carries out continuous monitoring of the correct use of the accreditation marks and references through:

- monitoring websites, advertising materials, and public sources of accredited organizations;

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- reviewing samples of certificates and other documents containing the GAS Mark;
- analyzing complaints, notifications, and reports regarding potential violations;
- conducting periodic random audits of communications and supporting materials.

Monitoring may be performed both during surveillance assessments and on an unscheduled basis.

5.2 Obligations of Accredited Bodies and Laboratories

Accredited bodies and laboratories shall:

- ensure the correct use of the GAS Mark in accordance with this Policy;
- provide, upon GAS request, copies of materials containing the mark or reference to accreditation;
- immediately cease use of the mark upon written request from GAS in prescribed cases.

5.3 Reporting Suspected Violations

Any person may report an alleged violation of the rules on the use of the GAS Mark via:

- the official electronic form available on the GAS website;
- the email address designated for complaints.

Reports may be submitted anonymously; in such cases, they will be reviewed to the extent possible based on the available factual information.

5.4 Review of Reports and Verification Procedure

Upon receiving a report, GAS shall:

1. register the submission and conduct a preliminary assessment;
2. request explanations and supporting materials from the organization, if necessary;
3. make a decision regarding further actions.

The verification is conducted impartially, with documented results.

5.5 Termination of the Right to Use the Mark

An accredited organization must immediately cease using the GAS Mark and references to accreditation in the following cases:

- suspension of accreditation;
- withdrawal of accreditation;
- expiration of accreditation without renewal;
- voluntary termination of accreditation;
- confirmed violation of this Policy.

The organization shall also:

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- remove the GAS Mark from all materials;
- remove any references to accreditation;
- ensure that clients are not misled regarding the accreditation status.

5.6 Sanctions for Violations

In the event of a confirmed violation of the rules for using the GAS Mark, the following measures may be applied:

1. written warning and requirement to correct the violation;
2. suspension of accreditation (in case of refusal to correct or repeated violations);
3. withdrawal of accreditation in the case of serious or deliberate violations;
4. requirement for the organization to publish a retraction if third parties were misled;
5. compensation for proven reputational damage, if such damage is substantiated.

All measures are applied in accordance with the principles of fairness, proportionality, and evidence-based decision-making.

5.7 Appeals

All decisions related to the imposition of sanctions under this Policy may be appealed in accordance with GAS.G-04 “Appeals and Complaints Procedure.”

6. FINAL PROVISIONS

- This Policy enters into force upon its approval.
- It shall be reviewed at least once every three years.
- In case of any discrepancies between this Policy and other internal GAS documents, the provisions of this Policy shall prevail with regard to the rules for the use of accreditation marks and references to GAS.
- The current version of this document is published on the official website of the GAS Accreditation Agency – **gas.international.**

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