EGAC Policy in Extra Ordinaries “Crisis”

Egyptian Government guidance will turn to outlining how Egypt will emerge from lockdown and the measures that will be put in place to prevent any infections. EGAC is closely following this guidance and as a result of that EGAC has its policy regarding remote assessments.

What remains clear is that EGAC’s guiding principle that the health and safety of its staff and customers remains importance. It is also apparent that the need to avoid unnecessary social contact will be with us for some time to come. However, there is a clear need to restart the Egyptian economy whilst we all take measures to continue to ensure that appropriate safeguards are in place.

EGAC recognize that as lockdown measures are it will become possible for EGAC to conduct some assessment activity on-site before September 2020. However, on-site assessment during that period will only be considered to facilitate the witnessing of technical activity where that it is absolutely necessary for the granting, renewal or reinstatement of accreditation and where there is agreement between all parties involved to conduct an on-site assessment.

Crisis policy will be used when:
1. Travel to a CAB or specific location is not reasonable for Safety reasons, War or revelations, Travel restrictions, Epidemic, Floods, Catastrophic, Disasters, etc...
2. The number of sites to be assessed is difficult for the AB to completely fulfill within its timeframe.
3. The remote assessed CAB had a previous assessment background that monitoring its competency.
4. The CAB has systematic implementation of its management system where records, data, etc. can be reviewed at any site, despite where the work is being perform According to COVID-19 pandemic,
5. EGAC doesn’t conduct remote assessment in initial or extension.

According to ILAC/IAF guidance by continuing accreditation process EGAC will:
- implement on-site assessment visit by costumer approval,
- implement remote assessment visit by costumer approval,
- if it is not possible, EGAC will extend accreditation validity date for a six month.

Taking all this into consideration, there is a continuing need for EGAC accreditation to provide confidence in businesses providing conformity assessment services, and a need that our services continue to be delivered in a way that does not create unnecessary risk to the health and safety of its staff or customers. As such, remote technique will remain EGAC’s primary technique until at least September 2020 for conducting its accreditation process.

To reduce risks associated with conducting on-site assessments. On-site assessments will be for the minimum time necessary, with as many aspects of the assessment as possible being conducted remotely. All necessary personal protective equipment must be available and all necessary safety precautions in place, based on a risk assessment of the activity to be performed & EGAC will not utilize assessors who are vulnerable on-site assessments.

Those customers with annual assessments due prior to September 2020 are encouraged to contact EGAC accreditation manager to begin discussions about the best way to conduct their assessment. In addition, all customers are encouraged to communicate with EGAC via communication media for real-time, up-to-date information regarding EGAC’s policies and approaches to assessments at this time. Details will also be made available through the EGAC website (www.egac.gov.eg).

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