

FINAS IMPARTIALITY AND QUALITY POLICY

FINAS-akkreditointipalvelu, FINAS Finnish Accreditation Service (FINAS) provides accreditation services needed to prove the competence and reliability of conformity assessment bodies (testing, calibration, certification, inspection, providing of proficiency testing, verification and validation, EMAS-verification and biobanking) and bodies offering related activities. FINAS accreditation services are carried out impartially and cost effectively with high quality, confidentiality and competence taking into account the needs of the customers.

Impartiality is one of the major principles for strengthening the reliability of accredited conformity assessment services. FINAS identifies, analyses, evaluates, treats and monitors on an ongoing basis the risks to impartiality arising from any activities or relationships in different phases of the accreditation process. This means that FINAS has identified risks to impartiality and defined means to eliminate or minimize the risks including identifying the residual risks. Any potential conflicts of interest are recognised and solved.

FINAS is part of Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency (Turvallisuus ja kemikaalivirasto, Tukes). The opportunity for effective involvement by interested parties to safeguard impartiality is provided by organisation structure. The Accreditation Board (Akkreditointiasian valtuuskunta) supervises FINAS's operations. Board's duty is to set goals for FINAS and decide lines of FINAS operations and monitor their fulfilment and also supervise FINAS finances. In addition, the Accreditation Board is established to support FINAS in managing the accreditation activities. The analyses of risks to impartiality are presented to Accreditation Board regularly.

The Decree on the Advisory Committee makes opportunity to the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland establish the Advisory Committee for Accreditation Matters. The Advisory Committee is usually comprised of stakeholders. When Advisory Committee is in operation, FINAS represents risk analysis to impartiality to Committee on a regular basis. The FINAS top management, personnel and the members of Board and Committee are committed to impartiality and objectivity to extent of Administration Act no 434/2003 (Hallintolaki).

FINAS accreditation procedures comply with national legislation, EU regulation and internationally harmonised requirements and guidelines as required for signatories of the EA/IAF/ILAC international MLA/MRA agreements. The procedures of FINAS are established to comply with this impartiality and quality policy and management manual including the non-discriminatory principle. FINAS gives training and participates to seminars as speakers and subjects are based on main principles of accreditation requirements. Trainings and seminars must be open to all, and no specific details or instructions are given on how to meet the requirements.

Compliance with the impartiality and quality policy is ensured by means of training on quality issues and internal quality system audits followed by corrective actions. The results of internal audits reviewed by management are used for continuous improvement of the accreditation activities. FINAS also uses complaints and feedback from customers and other parties to improve accreditation processes and activities.

The development in international level will be taken into account in FINAS's own procedures. FINAS harmonizes accreditation activities by making publicly available policy documents and by developing accreditation schemes for needs of customers.

The top management of FINAS ensures that the expertise and know-how of the personnel stays on a high level and they have tools for efficient working as well as possibilities to develop their skills in order to perform the given tasks. The personnel participate in the harmonisation and development of the accreditation and assessment requirements and guidelines both in the national and in the international level. FINAS Lead Assessors participate when needed in international evaluation teams.

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