

We assure that your  
**trust** in products and  
services is justified |

# Entidad Nacional de Acreditación

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**Passport to the international market**

— We work for companies, public administrations and society offering guarantees and confidence to the Spanish and international markets.



— ENAC is the Government-designated agency to operate in Spain as the National Accreditation Body applying the Directive 765/2008/EC of the European Parliament which regulates how Accreditation works in Europe. It requires that each State Member has a single accreditation body.

# Accreditation

## delivering confidence in products and services

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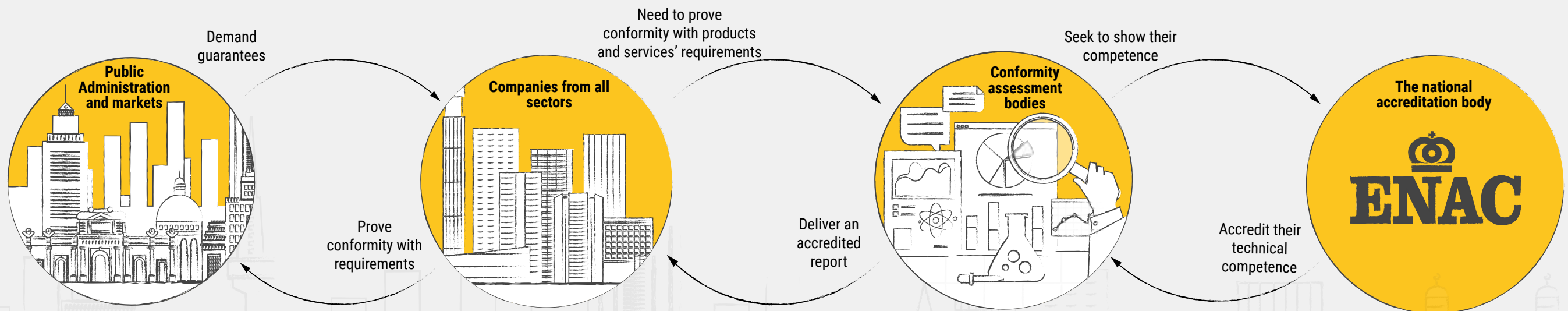


**We all need to trust the safety of lifts, the correct labelling of food, the quality of the water we drink, the safety of vehicle components, the correct measurements of electricity metres or fuel pumps or secure electronic transactions.**

In order to be confident, products, processes, services and facilities are subject to different types of control, such as testing, calibration, inspection or certification. But, how can we trust that these controls are carried out effectively?

The chain of trust is that which provides the necessary market guarantees via its different agents:

**For the chain of trust to be fully effective, each Member State of the European Union has a national accreditation body. In Spain, this agency is the National Accreditation Body (ENAC).**



**Both the market and public administration** require guarantees that products and services are reliable.

**Companies from all sectors** need to ensure and demonstrate that products, processes and services available to the public are safe, reliable, and comply both with regulatory requirements and those the market sets itself and, therefore they request an evaluator to carry out these controls.

**Conformity assessment bodies**, such as laboratories and inspection, certification or verification bodies, **must prove their technical competence for the activity on offer** if they want or need to provide confidence in the certificates and reports they issue to companies for product, process or service conformity with certain requirements.

**The accreditation body** is the independent body that controls the conformity assessment bodies rigorously in accordance with international standards. This accredits their technical competence to carry out their work and issue reports and reliable certificates. In Spain, it is ENAC who guarantees and closes the chain of trust.

## ENAC, last link in the chain of trust

Regulation (EC) No 765/2008, which regulates how accreditation works in Europe, is based on five fundamental principles which ensure that accreditation is the last link in the chain of trust for the market:

**Absence of profit-making and commercial spirit:** accreditation is a public service activity that does not seek to generate economic benefits or commercial objectives.

**Independence:** national accreditation bodies may not offer activities or services provided by conformity assessment bodies, nor may provide consulting services, own shares, or have financial interests in the management or in any other part of these organisms.

**Non-competition:** competition between national accreditation bodies should be avoided at all levels. Therefore, each Member State shall designate a single accreditation body that will restrict its activity to the territory of the State which has designated it.

**International Supervision:** national accreditation bodies shall take part in the regional accreditation organization in Europe, EA, and submitted periodically to their established peer evaluation system.

**Mutual recognition:** the national authorities shall recognise the equivalence of the services provided by the accreditation bodies, having successfully undergone peer evaluation and thereby shall accept accreditation certificates from such bodies and the certifications issued by conformity assessment bodies accredited by them.

## How we do it: Rigorous and independent assessment

In general, any activity can be accredited if it aims to assess whether a product, service, system, installation and so on is in accordance with certain requirements, which may be established by law or with standards, specifications or other voluntary documents.



**ENAC performs an exhaustive assessment based on international standards, by a highly specialized technical auditor team from research centres, universities, companies or bodies that are referenced in the assessed activity and have the necessary knowledge to judge professionally as to whether such activity is being carried out with the level of competence and required quality.**

With a continuous assessment process, via follow-up visits and reassessment audits, ENAC additionally ensures that accredited bodies continue to maintain their technical competence.

# Strategic tool for businesses

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Accreditation is a tool that companies increasingly use and find added value in terms of efficiency and safety, as well as enabling new markets to open up and making it easier for them to access public procurement. These guarantees help them stand out in the market when facing clients and different interested parties.

## By having accredited bodies, companies will obtain:



### PRODUCT AND SERVICE SAFETY

Accreditation reduces the possibilities of producing or providing a defective item.



### LEGAL SECURITY

Accreditation is the safest parameter for selecting a reliable assessment service provider so that, in the event of legal action, trusted accredited conformity assessment bodies allow a company to demonstrate due diligence.



### PRESTIGE

Accredited services provide reliability and recognised products or services, which directly impacts the company's image and customers' confidence.



### SAVINGS AND EFFICIENCY

Accredited conformity assessment services provide value in economic terms; since they reduce the possibility of the same product being submitted to redundant or repetitive assessments, with a consequent saving as product testing is costly and time-consuming, even though they performed correctly the first time.



### MARKETS

ENAC's accreditation is recognised and accepted in more than 100 countries around the world, which allows the results of accredited conformity assessment bodies to be more easily accepted by foreign markets. This acceptance, while allowing access to new business opportunities, contributes to reduced costs to manufacturers and exporters, thus reducing or eliminating the need for repeat tests in the importing country. Furthermore, in Europe, Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 states that national authorities shall recognise the equivalence of each Member State and shall accept certificates or reports issued by conformity assessment bodies accredited by them.



### ACCESS TO PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Use of accredited services is increasingly prioritised in public tender contracts around the world. In Spain, the 9/2017 Law, on 8 November, of Public Sector Contracts, prioritises accredited services as proof of conformity with the requirements or the specification criteria, the award criteria or the contract performance conditions.

# Tool at the service of public policies

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Accreditation is increasingly becoming the chosen mechanism by Governments around the world to ensure public sector trust in the safety and integrity of activities involved in key sectors such as cybersecurity, health or environmental protection.

Accredited organisations make a set of means available to the public that can be used to implement its policies, thereby achieving objectives at a lower cost and with best practices.

## By having accredited bodies:



### COST REDUCTION

Providing a monitor and control system with no impact on the taxpayer, allowing central, regional and local Governments to focus their resources on regulation aspects, leaving the weight of technical supervision in the hands of a specialised agency (ENAC).



### AGILITY

It makes it easier to use new, more agile and flexible regulation techniques that favour timely self-regulation, which ensures activities are reliable and effect public confidence.



*Where Community harmonisation legislation provides for the selection of conformity assessment bodies for its implementation, transparent **accreditation**, as provided for in this Regulation, ensuring the necessary level of confidence in conformity certificates, **should be considered by the national public authorities throughout the Community the preferred means of demonstrating the technical competence** of those bodies.*



European Commission on Directive 765/2008/EC, recital 12.

## ENAC, the Public Administration's trusted partner

Both in Spain and in Europe, legislators use accreditation widely; proof of this is the more than 170 national and regional provisions, as well as more than 100 European-level ones, which use accreditation as a tool to guarantee products' and services' reliability, to develop safe markets and to strengthen consumer protection.

Accreditation is also a fundamental element in the free trade agreements between the EU and third countries such as Canada (CETA Agreement) or Japan (Economic Partnership Agreement), which rely on accreditation as a tool to reduce trade barriers and to open doors for exports.

# Passport to the international market

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— Opening the way into foreign markets is often a challenge, as local companies' competence and economic customs impositions join with technical barriers that require products to meet a series of requirements usually associated with safety, environmental protection or quality features, known as technical barriers to trade.

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To overcome these barriers, international organisations have established agreements based on mutual recognition of certificates and reports issued by national accreditation bodies, ENAC in Spain. Thereby strengthening global trade to make the necessary technical requirement compliance declarations for exports and imports to be accepted around the world.



## **ACCREDITED ONCE, ACCEPTED EVERYWHERE**

To achieve this goal, the international accreditation infrastructure relies on two organisations, the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF). In these organisations' framework, international mutual recognition agreements have been established that prioritise bringing to the market - authorities, importers, consumers, and so on - confidence that the information contained in the certificates and reports accompanying products endorses its conformity and are issued by laboratories, inspection, certification and verification bodies.

To access and maintain the status of these agreements' signatories, accreditation bodies must periodically go through a rigorous process of assessment.







## ENAC-ACCREDITED BODIES, INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

— ENAC is signatory of all agreements, so their accreditations 100 countries which include all the United States, Canada, Japan, India, among others, which allows to have a recognised support in making it easier for products and across borders.

international recognition are accepted in more than the EU and EFTA, as well as China, Australia, Brazil and Spanish companies international markets services to be accepted

**\*ENAC has an infrastructure of more than 1700 accredited conformity assessment bodies available for the Spanish market in practically all economic sectors with the highest international recognition.**

# Signatory countries of the Multilateral Recognition Agreements

<b>Europe:</b>		Greece	North Macedonia	<b>Third countries:</b>	Cuba	Jamaica	Pakistan	Singapore
Albania	+	Hungary	Romania	Algeria	Ecuador	Japan	Papua New Guinea	South Korea
Austria		Ireland	Serbia	Argentina	+	Jordan	Paraguay	South Africa
Belgium		Italy	Slovakia	Australia	El Salvador	Kenya	People's Rep. of China	Sri Lanka
Belarus		Latvia	Slovenia	Bahrain	Ethiopia	Kuwait	Peru	Taiwan
Bosnia Herzegovina		Lithuania	Spain	Brazil	Guatemala	Malaysia	Phillipines	Thailand
Bulgaria		Luxembourg	Sweden	Canada	India	Mexico	Rep. of Bangladesh	Tunisia
Croatia		Malta	Switzerland	Chile	Indonesia	Mongolia	Rep. of Kazakhstan	Ukraine
Cyprus		Moldavia	The Netherlands	Colombia	Iran	New Zealand	Rep. of Kyrgyzstan	United Arab Emirates
Czech Rep		Norway	Turkey	Costa Rica	Israel	Nicaragua	Rep. of Mauritius	United States of America
Denmark		Poland	United Kingdom			Oman	Russian Federation	Uruguay
Estonia		Portugal					Saudi Arabia	Vietnam
Finland								Yemen
France								
Germany								



For further information:  
**[www.enac.es](http://www.enac.es)**