

FAVORING CONSCIENTIOUS BUSINESS

A range of innovations aimed at the optimization of the National Accreditation System and formation of the infrastructure of trust between government and business that ensures the consumer safety was discussed at the regular meeting of the collegium of RusAccreditation.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation M.S. Oreshkin who oversees the activities of RusAccreditation. The Minister called the introduction of amendments to the Federal Law on Accreditation that created the basis for further configuration of the National Accreditation System (NAS) an important achievement of 2018. Individual administrative procedures for bona fide accredited persons were simplified, which should significantly reduce their financial costs (renunciation of paper accreditation certificates, digitization of a number of interaction processes between RusAccreditation and accredited persons, etc.). The work is ongoing on the development of the subordinate-regulation base required for the implementation of the new provisions of the Law. "We can see the impact of these amendments in RusAccreditation's efforts to bring discipline on the conformity assessment market and to clear it from unfair participants," Maxim Oreshkin noted.

According to the Minister, support for export is another important area of RusAccreditation's activities. The main condition for achieving success in this area is the national accreditation body's participation in international organizations: RusAccreditation has already signed mutual recognition arrangements with the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC MRA) and the Asia-Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC MRA) and joined the International Accreditation Forum (IAF)¹.

¹ APAC - Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation; ILAC - International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation; IAF - International Accreditation Forum. - Editor's note.

Moreover, the significance of the joint work with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in the area of Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) was also emphasized. The audit of the National Accreditation System for compliance with the OECD GLP principles is scheduled for this year.

The Federal Service for Accreditation shows one of the best results in digital transformation. RusAccreditation has become the first authority to fully withdraw from the practice of permit paperwork—now one only needs to be included in the register to start working. Information from the registers is provided in the electronic form exclusively, through their publication on the RusAccreditation website and automated generating of responses to requests into a unified system of the inter-institutional digital interaction service. To validate the data at the time of accessing the registries, a user can create an electronic extract from the registry via the RusAccreditation blockchain network. According to Maxim Oreshkin, the results of the implementation of the register-based model proved to be successful and would be extended to other areas of permitting activities.

Chief of the Federal Service for Accreditation A.I. Khersontsev noted that RusAccreditation's key task is to build the infrastructure of trust for Russian goods and services at home. In 2018, accreditation was terminated 1.6 times more often than it was granted. "This demonstrates that the requirements for accreditation become higher, and it is associated with participants unwilling to meet them leaving the market.



Keywords: RusAccreditation, OECD, export support, digital transformation, risk-oriented approach.

Smart control



Failure to provide data on results of activities for three months



Two or more accredited persons with the same scope of accreditation at the same address



Number of issued test sheets and certificates doubles the average



Staff rotation exceeding 50 percent since the last competence attestation



Deviation from scheduled conformity assessment procedure



Issuing certificates based on test reports without carrying out tests

Risk indicators

Use of control results for competence attestation

Involvement of the RusAccreditation National Institute for Accreditation for regular monitoring of accredited persons' activities

Notification of major requesters of conformity assessment services about reputational risks from use of documents of unfair accredited persons

New tools

We expect the number of new accreditations to drop continuously. At the same time, if the real sector of the economy grows, the number of testing laboratories would increase as well,” Alexey Khersontsev informed.

RusAccreditation was the first agency among the federal authorities to introduce the risk-oriented approach. In 2018, RusAccreditation began to use risk indicators in control and supervisory activities—the smart control tools (see figure).

The new tools to combat unfair accredited persons remove from the market participants who issue conformity assessment documents without carrying out the necessary tests — those whose activities significantly reduce the market value of services and make the work compliant with all the established requirements unprofitable. Therefore, there is a steady trend to reduce the number of accredited persons. Thus, in 2018, the number of operating accredited persons decreased by 6.3 percent (by 8 percent in 2017), with 659 accredited persons voluntarily refusing accreditation. In addition, 1,319 warnings were sent to “dormant” organizations that had not been issuing documents in the area of conformity assessment (confirmation) within a year.

The Chief of RusAccreditation also noted that the online declaration registration service was developing fast, and the number of market participants registering their conformity declarations by themselves was growing. Expansion of the computing capacity provided

for stable operation of services of the inter-institutional digital interaction. In 2018, about 35 million requests for register data were taken by the Federal Service for Accreditation, while the average response time amounted to 0.7 seconds.

Alexey Khersontsev recognized the transfer to new versions of standards ISO/IEC 17011:2017 and ISO/IEC 17025:2017 as the key task for NAS in 2019, with due regard for the scheduled assessment of NAS by international APAC experts in 2020. A separate task related to the export support is to expand the pool of laboratories entitled to use the Combined Mark of ILAC MRA. The priorities are to improve the efficiency of work with unfair accredited persons, to further develop the information systems and to integrate them with systems of other agencies, as well as to develop the single educational platform of the National Accreditation System.

In fact, the entire digital and regulatory transformation of processes in the National Accreditation System, which increases the transparency of the activities of participants on the conformity assessment market, as well as industrial and commercial enterprises, is aimed at supporting bona fide business.



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