

Frequently Asked Questions for Change of CNAS Accreditation Symbols

- Q. What shall I do for those items bearing the old accreditation symbols?
- A. A running change approach is adopted. Certified organizations can still use them up to 31 December, 2018. However, it is highly recommended your organization starts the change to the new accreditation symbols as soon as possible.
- Q. What happens if it is found the old accreditation symbols are still being used during audits?
- A. In the period from 30 October 2015 to 31 August 2017, our auditors shall raise an opportunity for improvement if it is found that the old accreditation symbols are still being used. On or after 1 September 2017, our auditors shall raise an area for improvement if it is found that the old accreditation symbols are still being used and it will be followed up in the next audit. On or after 31 December 2018, our auditors shall raise a minor nonconformity if it is found that the old accreditation symbols are still being used. Your organization then shall take timely corrections and corrective actions to rectify the situation and prevent recurrence.
- Q. Is it acceptable not to use the accreditation symbols in our items?
- A. Yes, certified organizations can choose to use or not to use the accreditation symbols. However, if they are used, then your organization shall comply with all the requirements of use.
- Q. What is the obligation for the organization holding accredited certificate?
- A. The organizations holding accredited certificates have a number of obligations to fulfill, including undergoing witnessed assessments in which assessors from accreditation bodies join the HKQAA audit team as observers in the audit. For the detailed requirements, please refer to the mandatory document IAF MD 17:2015 issued by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF): http://www.iaf.nu/upFiles/IAF_MD172014WitnessingActivitiesIssue1Version2PublicationVersion.pdf