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**European
co-operation for
Accreditation**

EA Report

of the **Re-evaluation**

of

**Raad voor Accreditatie RvA
(Dutch Accreditation Council)**

at:

Utrecht, The Netherlands

Date(s) of evaluation: 22 – 27 January 2018 and 15-18 May 2018

EA Evaluation team:

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TL
Deputy TL and TM Management Systems
TM Medical Testing
TM Certification of persons
TM Reference Materials Producers
TM Products
TM Proficiency Testing Providers
TM Verification and validation bodies
TM Calibration
TM Inspection
TM Testing
TM Trainee Inspection
TM Trainee Certification of Persons

Date report: 2018.09.09

0 Executive summary

The EA re-evaluation of RvA took place from the 22nd to the 26th of January 2018 in order to maintain the RvA status of signatory to the EA Multilateral Agreement. for the fields of accreditation of calibration / testing / medical testing laboratories, inspection bodies, certification bodies for management systems, products and persons as well as validation and verification bodies and to extend it to the accreditation of reference materials producers.

The peer evaluation of RvA's activities of accreditation of proficiency testing providers had to be postponed due to the resignation of the appointed EA evaluator and took place from the 15th to the 18th of May 2018.

The peer evaluation included discussions at the RvA office with the RvA staff, the review of documents, files and records as well as the witnessing of 16 assessments performed by RvA teams.

RvA had provided the team in advance with a comprehensive self-assessment report and the main RvA management system documents could be retrieved directly from the RvA homepage. All other documents could be accessed during the visit at RvA offices and RvA staff provided the necessary translations. RvA offices are well equipped with IT systems which facilitated the conduct of the evaluation activities.

RvA is a private non-profit foundation, appointed as the Dutch national accreditation body by the Dutch Law that came into force the 1st of January 2010. It is entrusted with the operation of accreditation as a public authority activity. The RvA operates under the ultimate responsibility of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate.

RvA management and permanent staff as well as assessors met during witness assessments demonstrated a high level of competence and commitment to their tasks. The EA team obtained evidence that RvA has developed and implemented a documented management system that supports the management of the accreditation process; the system is living, with a number of initiatives currently in progress to update / further detail the documents of the system and the level of performance of the accreditation activities.

The team was favourably impressed with the commitment of RvA staff to develop improvement actions as well as new tools to support the operation (such as through a systematic use of the "Process to Flow" concept). RvA also pays specific attention to the communication with their direct customers and different stakeholders, with the view to better understand their expectations and to enhance their awareness on accreditation matters.

The documents, records and files reviewed during the evaluation in the office and the assessments witnessed gave the team the opportunity to get a comprehensive picture of the operation and performance of RvA

Through the different activities performed during the peer evaluation, the EA team confirmed that the operation of RvA generally remains in compliance with the relevant requirements.

However, the team identified a number of issues that need to be given due consideration by RvA as it may affect the level of confidence in its operation. These findings were presented during the closing meetings on January 26, 2018 and May 18, 2018 and include a total of 23 findings (7 non-conformities, 8 Concerns and 8 Comments) that are listed under section 4 of the present report.

Evaluation of RvA answer and recommendation of the EA evaluation team :

The answer of RvA to the findings raised by the EA team is presented under section 4 of the report, together with the evaluation of the EA evaluation team. For several findings, the EA team felt the need to request complementary information after the first answer was received and a final conclusion could only be made after different steps of interaction.

All findings can be closed provided the conditions related to NC7 and CN7 are complied with and the recommendation related to CN6 is given due consideration by RvA.

The EA team therefore recommends that

- **RvA remains an EA MLA signatory for the fields of accreditation of calibration / testing / medical testing laboratories, inspection bodies, certification bodies for management systems, products and persons as well as validation and verification bodies, provided that the condition linked to NC 7 is complied with;**
- **RvA becomes a signatory of the EA MLA for the field of accreditation of Reference Materials Producers, provided that the condition linked to CN 7 is complied with.**