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**By Email**

27 May 2021

Ms Wendy JAN  
Clerk, Public Accounts Committee  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms Jan,

**Public Accounts Committee**

**Consideration of Chapter 4 of the Director of Audit's Report No. 76**

**Innovation and Technology Commission: Efforts in promoting  
internationally accepted standards and conformity assessment services**

Thank you for your letter dated 18 May 2021.

The Commission's response to questions raised in the letter is enclosed for the Public Accounts Committee's consideration.

Yours sincerely,



( Jenny Lee )  
for Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

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c.c. Secretary for Innovation and Technology  
Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury  
Director of Audit

**Chapter 4 of the Director of Audit’s Report No. 76**  
**“Innovation and Technology Commission: Efforts in promoting**  
**internationally accepted standards and conformity assessment services”**  
**Questions and Request for Information**

**Part 2: Hong Kong Accreditation Service**

- 1) *According to paragraph 2.6 and Table 3 of the Director of Audit’s Report No. 76 (“Audit Report”), for three of the five years from 2015-16 to 2019-2020, the bench mark set by Hong Kong Accreditation Service (“HKAS”) on the net increase in accredited organisations had not been met. Besides, according to paragraph 2.8 and Table 4 of the Audit Report, as at 31 December 2020, for some programmes of the three accreditation schemes of HKAS, the number of organisations accredited was not more than two. Was the benchmark not achieved due to long processing time of the accreditation service or because the service was not well known by the public? What actions will be taken by HKAS to follow up and improve the situation? The benchmark on the net increase in accredited organisations was maintained at 6 from 2015-16 to 2019-2020. Has Innovation and Technology Commission (“ITC”) reviewed and considered adjust this target? If not, why?*

ITC’s response:

HKAS offers accreditation services to laboratories, certification bodies and inspection bodies through Hong Kong Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (“HOKLAS”), the Hong Kong Certification Body Accreditation Scheme (“HKCAS”) and the Hong Kong Inspection Body Accreditation Scheme (“HKIAS”) respectively. Participation in HKAS accreditation schemes is voluntary. Testing and certification bodies may provide conformity assessment services in Hong Kong without accreditation. As at 25 May 2021, there were 282 organisations accredited by HKAS.

As shown in Table 3 of the Audit Report, at least 12 new organisations obtained HKAS accreditation every year. However, the number of organisations terminating their accreditation varied, causing the benchmark set by HKAS not being met in three years. As testing and certification bodies have different considerations when deciding whether to remain accredited (such as business and market considerations, or an organisation may voluntarily terminate the accreditation as it no longer fulfills the accreditation criteria), it is difficult to generalise the reasons for not seeking

HKAS' accreditation. To better reflect whether HKAS achieves the objective of "upgrading the standard of operation of conformity assessment bodies", HKAS has decided to adopt "the number of newly accredited organisations" (instead of "net increase in the number of accredited organisations") as the new benchmark.

ITC and HKAS have reviewed the new benchmark and set the target at 12 for 2021-22. This target will be reviewed every year thereafter. HKAS will also adopt the recommendation of the Audit Commission and formalise the procedures for ascertaining reasons for voluntary termination of accreditations, and take appropriate follow-up actions if the reasons provided are related to the quality of HKAS' services.

HKAS would conduct market surveys and consult key stakeholders to determine market demand before launching new accreditation programmes.

Some programmes under the three HKAS accreditation schemes have two or less accredited organisations. The main reason was that after some programmes were launched, including accreditation programmes for "Greenhouse gas validation and verification"<sup>1</sup>, "Food safety management system certification", "Information security management system certification", "Veterinary testing" and "Consumer product inspection", there was a change in market needs, and the testing and certification bodies became less willing to seek accreditation for those services because the number of clients requiring accredited services had decreased. Besides, some international testing and certification organisations had decided not to obtain accreditation in Hong Kong as their overseas parent companies already obtained accreditation from foreign accreditation bodies that covered the activities of their branches in Hong Kong. On the other hand, some government departments have requested HKAS to develop accreditation programmes, such as "Crime scene investigation"<sup>2</sup>, "Forensic testing"<sup>3</sup>, "Residential care homes (elderly persons) service providers' management

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<sup>1</sup> Many organisations regularly quantify, monitor and report their greenhouse gas emissions and/or reductions. "Greenhouse gas validation and verification" are third-party confirmations of those reports.

<sup>2</sup> "Crime scene investigation" refers to examination done at scenes of crime for investigation purpose, such as examination of fingerprints, bloodstain patterns, shoeprints, and investigation of fires and traffic accidents, and the collection of evidence at the scenes.

<sup>3</sup> "Forensic testing" refers to analyses and examinations of the evidences collected from the scenes, such as DNA analysis, toxicology tests, examinations of controlled substances, handwriting and other documents.

system certification” and “Reference material producers<sup>4</sup>”. Therefore, while the number of potential applicants for those programmes was expected to be small, HKAS decided to introduce the programmes, having considered the public interest or benefits to the community or the testing and certification industry.

As recommended by the Audit Commission, HKAS will continue to conduct thorough market surveys and consult key stakeholders when developing new accreditation programmes to ascertain market demand. HKAS will consider launching a new service only when sufficient number of organisations have indicated clear intention of applying for accreditation. We will also step up the efforts in promoting the services of HKAS to both public and private sectors via different means, including through the internet, seminars, promotional materials and communication channels within the government.

- 2) ***Referring to paragraph 2.9 of the Audit Report, please provide the number of applications received, the number of accredited organisations involved and the number of accreditations granted under the Hong Kong Laboratory Accreditation Scheme, the Hong Kong Certification Body Accreditation Scheme and the Hong Kong Inspection Body Accreditation Scheme in the past five years.***

ITC’s response:

In general, applications received by HKAS each year can be classified into two types, viz. initial applications and extension applications. The former refers to applications submitted by conformity assessment bodies that have not obtained any accreditation under a particular accreditation scheme, while the latter refers to applications to extend the scope of accreditation in an accreditation scheme under which existing accreditation has been granted.

Applications received by HKAS in the past five years under the three accreditation schemes, number of accredited organisations involved, as well as number of accreditations granted each year are set out in **Appendix**.

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<sup>4</sup> “Reference material producers” are organisations producing reference materials, which are materials sufficiently homogeneous and stable with respect to one or more specified properties and have been established to be fit for the intended use in a measurement process. Many laboratories and inspection bodies need reference materials for calibrating their equipment or use the material for quality control of their analytical processes.

- 3) ***According to paragraphs 2.18 to 2.20 of the Audit report, HKAS conducts reassessments for each accredited organisation regularly to ensure that the standards required for continued accreditation are maintained. As at 14 October 2020, among the 40 outstanding reassessments with delays, the period of the longest overdue was 651 days, which is more than six times of the average of 93 days. What are the reasons for HKAS to be unable to conduct the reassessments within four weeks after the due date as specified in the Quality Procedure? What specific improvement measures will be made in the future to ensure that delay in reassessment does not become a normal scenario?***

ITC's response:

To ensure that accredited organisations are in continuous compliance with accreditation criteria, HKAS conducts regular reassessments for accredited organisations located in Hong Kong and the Mainland. Reassessments are typically conducted by an HKAS officer with a team of independent expert assessors in the form of on-site assessments. These expert assessors include testing and certification professionals, university professors or researchers from Hong Kong, the Mainland or overseas. In addition to serving local testing and certification organisations, HKAS offers accreditation services<sup>5</sup> to laboratories for 'construction materials' or 'toys and children's products' testing in the Mainland. Reassessments normally include the following activities:

- (a) Hong Kong Laboratory Accreditation Scheme ("HOKLAS") – interviewing staff members and reviewing documents in all major offices of the laboratory, and witnessing testing and calibration activities at the laboratory;
- (b) Hong Kong Certification Body Accreditation Scheme ("HKCAS") – interviewing staff members and reviewing documents in all major offices of the certification body, and witnessing audits performed by

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<sup>5</sup> Currently, many materials used in construction projects in Hong Kong are produced in the Mainland. Depending on the project requirements, some of the construction materials have to be tested according to local requirements in Hong Kong. Since the delivery of construction materials to Hong Kong for testing is very difficult and time-consuming, HKAS continues to accept accreditation applications from construction material testing laboratories in the Mainland. For other testing services, such as toy and children's product testing, HKAS has stopped accepting accreditation applications from Mainland laboratories many years ago. For Mainland laboratories that had obtained the accreditation before 2000, HKAS is still maintaining the accreditation service for them. Therefore, regular reassessments in the Mainland are performed by HKAS for these types of laboratories. Currently, there are in total 14 laboratories in the Mainland being accredited by HKAS.

the certification body's auditor(s) at its client's premises; and

- (c) Hong Kong Inspection Body Accreditation Scheme ("HKIAS") – interviewing staff members and reviewing documents in all major offices of the inspection body, and witnessing inspection services, e.g. inspection of products at factories in the Mainland.

Due to the travel restrictions imposed since the outbreak of COVID-19 in early 2020, HKAS has been unable to conduct reassessments for accredited organisations in the Mainland. Some overseas expert assessors could not travel to Hong Kong for conducting reassessments either, leading to the delay in some scheduled reassessments in 2020. In response to this situation, HKAS had reviewed the documentations and records of accredited organisations concerned to ensure that they were in continuous compliance with relevant accreditation standards. This was in line with the temporary measure accepted by the international accreditation community for temporarily handling delays in reassessments at that time.

Regarding the three reassessment cases with the longest period of delay, they involved two local accredited inspection bodies with key personnel stationed in the Mainland. Upon the implementation of new requirements in relevant international standard in April 2019, HKAS started to have reassessment interviews and document reviews of local accredited organisations conducted in their Hong Kong offices, instead of having these tasks carried out in offices outside Hong Kong by sending the HKAS assessment team over. In this connection, the two organisations had to send their Mainland staff to their Hong Kong offices for interview during reassessments. HKAS then discussed with the two organisations concerned about the new arrangement for reassessments, and in late 2019, they finally agreed and arranged to send their staff to Hong Kong for reassessments. However, due to the outbreak of COVID-19 in early 2020, their Mainland staff could not travel to Hong Kong and the reassessments were further delayed.

Since January 2021, HKAS has been conducting remote assessments for organisations of which on-site assessments could not be conducted. Remote assessments are assessments conducted via video conferencing platforms or other online solutions, with a view to minimising the effect of travel restrictions on reassessment and ensuring that the delay would not become a normal scenario because of the pandemic. As at 25 May 2021, among the 40 delayed reassessments cases identified in the Audit Report, the assessments of 36 cases have been completed, one is being conducted and the remaining three have been scheduled for late May to June.

- 4) *According to paragraph 2.25 of the Audit Report, 21 organisations accredited under HOKLAS terminated the accreditations for all or part of their accredited activities in 2019. When the Audit Commission examined the websites of 15 of these 21 organisations in November 2020, it was noted that 1 organisation was still displaying HKAS accreditation symbol, 1 organisation was claiming that some tests conducted by its laboratory were still accredited by HKAS, while two did not include a statement indicating which activities were not accredited. Does HKAS have dedicated department to follow up with organisations after they terminate accreditations to prevent them from giving misleading information to the public?*

ITC's response:

According to the existing surveillance mechanism, HKAS officers would check whether an organisation was still using HKAS symbols or making claims of HKAS accreditation on its website upon termination of accreditation. The organisation would be informed immediately to remove those claims if found.

HKAS took follow-up actions in January 2021 on the four cases mentioned in paragraph 2.25 of the Audit Report. One of the cases was related to an obsolete website of an organisation that was no longer in operation. The other three cases involved ambiguous claims of accreditation status for certain test categories or items. HKAS had immediately instructed the organisations concerned to rectify the accreditation claims, and subsequently verified that those organisations had taken appropriate actions. HKAS will assign staff to strengthen the monitoring of websites of organisations of which accreditation has been terminated to ensure that the HKAS accreditation symbols and claims of accreditation status are not misused.

### **Part 3: Product Standards Information Bureau and stands and Calibration Laboratory**

- 5) *According to paragraphs 3.5 and 3.6 of the Audit report, the maximum number of visitors to the Products Standards Resource Centre (“PSRC”) from 2015 to 2020 (up to September) was 21 in 2016. According to ITC, the decrease in the number of visitors to PSRC was mainly due to the enhancement of Internet access to standards and standard-related publications in recent years. In this regards, has ITC considered shutting*

***down the PSRC which occupied a net operational floor area of 41 square metres as well as disbanding the Product Standards Information Bureau (“PSIB”) which had an expenditure of HKD 3.5 million in FY2019-2020? Or does ITC have other arrangements?***

ITC’s response:

PSRC currently provides free access to a full preview of standard documents to the public. Due to copyright consideration, only part of the documents (usually a few pages) of the version available on the internet are free of charge. Therefore, there is a need to maintain the PSRC so that the public can have free access to a full preview of standard documents before making a purchase decision. In response to the Audit Commission’s recommendation, PSIB is undergoing a stock-taking exercise of all materials maintained at PSRC to identify and dispose of outdated standard documents and related publications that have no reference value. It is expected that the stock-taking exercise would be completed in the third quarter of 2021. Upon completion of the stock-taking exercise, we will conduct a comprehensive review on the operation of PSRC and consider reducing the scale of PSRC based on the principle of cost-effectiveness.

The expenditure for PSIB during 2019-20 (i.e. HKD 3.5 million) covers the salary for five staff (including 1 manager, 1 principal technical officer and 3 clerical grade staff). Apart from the PSRC service, PSIB is also responsible for providing sales service of standards and related publications as well as free technical enquiry service on product standards. These services facilitate the public to identify and purchase standard documents and related publications which they need, and answer technical enquiries on standards. In addition, PSIB updates its dedicated website regularly having regard to the latest development of standards to facilitate the public in obtaining standard-related information, such as information or websites of latest local and overseas technical regulations, standards, guidelines, codes of practice, etc. ITC will review the operation of PSIB and adjust its scale of operation and make suitable manpower arrangement based on actual operational needs.

- 6) *According to paragraph 3.8 of the Audit report, PSIB had neither maintained inventory records on some inventory items kept in PSRC, nor conducted inventory checks for PSRC, which violated the Stores and Procurement Regulations of the Government. Moreover, PSIB had not devised a mechanism to dispose of superseded standards that had no reference value. A standard issued by the British Standards Institution in***



***1970 and withdrawn in 1995 was still made available to visitors in PSRC. Has PSIB drawn up a schedule for improving its inventory management? How would PSIB formulate guidelines on standards in the future to avoid outdated standards from misleading the public indirectly?***

ITC's response:

PSIB established an inventory management and review mechanism for PSRC in March 2021, and has started stock-taking all materials maintained in PSRC comprehensively in accordance with the Stores and Procurement Regulations of the Government. As of May 2021, PSIB has completed the stock-taking of about 20% of materials. PSIB will continue with the stock-taking exercise and dispose of outdated standards<sup>6</sup> that have no reference value. The exercise is expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2021.

Each standard document is published with an issue date and version number. Websites of standard publishing organisations also provide the latest information for checking. As such, unless a user has a specific request (e.g. making reference to an earlier version of the standard), PSIB will normally only provide the latest version for public reference after confirming the latest version of the standard.

- 7) ***According to paragraphs 3.21 and 3.22 of the Audit Report, as at 5 January 2021, among the 1,141 equipment items with calibration due dates, over 30% (381 items) had been overdue for calibration. ITC stated that 221 items were backup equipment items and should have been classified as "Calibrate as required"; 24 items had been taken out of service and should have been classified as "Not to be calibrated". The remaining 136 equipment items required regular calibrations. This figure was higher than the normal level and around 10% had been overdue for more than 1 year. According to paragraph 3.24 of the Audit Report, the Quality Manual of Standards and Calibration Laboratory (SCL) stated that in general the queuing time for calibration service shall not be longer than 15 working days. However, paragraph 3.25 of the Audit Report pointed out that for 7,039 equipment items completed by SCL in the period from 2015 to 2020, 4,162 items (nearly 60%) had queuing time longer than 15 working days. Has ITC reviewed how to improve the management efficiency of SCL?***

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<sup>6</sup> The PSRC usually maintains a few latest versions of standards for the public's reference.

ITC's response:

SCL has clear working procedures which stipulate that only equipment items with valid calibration can be used in measurement jobs. Equipment items with overdue calibration will not be used in measurement jobs to ensure the validity and quality of the measurement services.

Among the 381 equipment items overdue for calibration, 245 items involved improper labelling. For example, 221 backup equipment items which should be labelled as "Calibrate as Required" (i.e. to calibrate when it is required to be used) were labelled as "Calibrate Regularly" instead. In addition, 24 out of service equipment items were labelled as "Calibrate Regularly" with calibration due date. They should actually be labelled as "Not Calibrated". SCL is reviewing the labels relating to the calibration requirements of equipment items to ensure the labels are marked correctly. The review is expected to be completed by June 2021.

For the remaining 136 equipment items overdue for calibration, 122 items (around 90%) were overdue for less than 1 year. It was mainly caused by the Government's special work arrangement imposed in 2020 due to the COVID-19 outbreak, during which ITC staff could not return to the laboratories to conduct the calibration work in a timely manner. Upon the resumption of normal working arrangement in mid-February 2021, the calibrations of 88 out of the 122 items have been completed, and SCL endeavors to calibrate the remaining items as soon as possible. SCL will strengthen the management of equipment calibration to ensure that equipment items will be calibrated before the due date and the progress will be reviewed on a monthly basis to avoid overdue.

As SCL aims to provide high-precision calibration services, rather than competing with commercial laboratories which provide lower-precision calibration services in Hong Kong, it has accorded higher priority to calibration jobs for high-precision equipment items, resulting in longer queuing time for lower grade equipment items. SCL will review the current arrangement as well as the overall management, so that appropriate measures, including setting up of different queuing times for high grade and low grade equipment items, can be taken to address the issue of long queuing time of certain lower grade equipment items. Stakeholders will be informed of the proposed measures. The review is expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2021.

#### **Part 4: Support for Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification**

- 8) *According to para. 4.4, para. 4.5 and Table 11 of the Audit's Report, the Chairman and members of the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification (HKCTC) comprise practitioners from the testing and certification (T&C) sector, business sector and professional organisations (i.e. non-official members). In the period from 2016 to 2020, the attendance rate of non-official members ranged from 67% to 80%, which was relatively lower than the attendance rate of official members ranging from 93% to 100%. Moreover, according to para. 4.6 and Table 12 of the Audit's Report, in each year, a significant percentage (12% to 35%) of the non-official members did not attend any council meetings or only attended one of the three council meetings held. How would the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) step up efforts to encourage and facilitate non-official members' attendance at council meetings?*

ITC's response:

To encourage and facilitate the non-official members of HKCTC to attend meetings, HKCTC Secretariat under ITC will continue to provide facilitation and will also issue meeting reminders more frequently to members prior to meetings.

In view of Audit's recommendations, HKCTC Secretariat will check the schedule of members before fixing the date of a council meeting on which more members will be available to attend. Moreover, HKCTC has started using a hybrid mode (i.e. physical and online) to hold meetings since the one held in May 2021 so that those members who are unable to attend in person may choose to join the meeting through video-conferencing.

- 9) *According to para. 4.10, para. 4.11 and Table 13 of the Audit's Report, under the Local Exhibition Programme (LEP) and the Mainland and Overseas Exhibition Programme (MOEP) of HKCTC, HKCTC set up booths at trade shows in Hong Kong, Mainland and overseas. Eligible accredited T&C bodies were invited to apply to use the booths free of charge, with the rental and production costs paid by HKCTC. In the period from 2016-17 to 2019-2020, 11% to 50% of the participants of the exhibition programmes were T&C bodies associated with council members. When would ITC put in place safeguarding measures to ensure that potential conflicts of interest of members are declared in council meetings, precluding any alleged transfer of benefits?*

ITC's response:

LEP and MOEP of HKCTC are open to all eligible local T&C bodies. The T&C bodies associated with HKCTC members enjoy no privilege.

In view of Audit's recommendations, the HKCTC Secretariat, starting from the council meeting of May 2021, has adopted the practice of reminding members, at the beginning of each council meeting, the need to make declaration of interest for relevant discussion items (i.e. such practice is no longer confined to the first meeting of each term of HKCTC members). Whenever there are specific issues which may involve potential conflict of interest to be discussed at a council meeting (e.g. the eligibility criteria for participating in LEP and MOEP), HKCTC Secretariat will also take the initiative to remind members to declare their interest as appropriate.

## **Part 5: Way Forward**

**10) *According to paragraphs 5.5 and 5.6 of the Audit Report, in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, HKAS has launched two new accreditation services under HOKLAS, viz. accreditation services for medical face masks testing and COVID-19 reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction ("RT-PCR") testing. However, up to 28 February 2021, only two accreditation applications had been received from conformity assessment bodies for medical face masks testing, and no accreditation had been granted. Moreover, only 5 of the 23 local COVID-19 RT-PCT testing institutions in the private sector had applied and obtained HKAS accreditation for COVID-19 testing. How will ITC step up the efforts to promote accreditation services that can help fight against COVID-19 during the pandemic outbreak?***

ITC's response:

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, HKAS launched the accreditation services for medical face masks test and COVID-19 nucleic acid test in 2020. For medical face mask test, apart from making an announcement on ITC's website, all accredited non-medical laboratories were informed about the introduction of the new accreditation service in April 2020. Both HKAS and HKCTC Newsletters carried the promotion message in December 2020. As for COVID-19 nucleic acid test, the Department of Health (DH) held a briefing in May 2020 for all private medical testing laboratories in Hong Kong, during which HKAS was invited to introduce the relevant

accreditation service.

For medical face masks test, as at 25 May 2021, HKAS has granted accreditation to one organisation for the tests concerned.

Currently, the 26 private laboratories listed on DH's list of "Local COVID-19 nucleic acid testing institutions recognised by the Hong Kong SAR Government" have met DH's criteria for the Laboratory Recognition Scheme (LRS) for COVID-19 nucleic acid testing, including having attained certification of COVID-19 nucleic acid test Quality Assurance Programme (QAP) from the Centre for Health Protection, and attained medical laboratory accreditation from the College of American Pathologists, HKAS or its Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRA) partners. As private laboratories have accumulated sufficient experience on COVID-19 nucleic acid test over the last year, the DH has requested that COVID-19 nucleic acid test must be included in the scope of accreditation for new applicants to LRS since 1 January 2021. For existing laboratories under the LRS, their scope of accreditation must cover COVID-19 nucleic acid test by end-2021.

Among the 26 private laboratories listed under the DH's LRS for COVID-19 nucleic acid testing, 11 have been accredited by HKAS for the tests concerned. HKAS is currently handling another 16 applications for accreditation on COVID-19 tests.

ITC will contact laboratories that are currently offering, or preparing to offer, the above testing services in the market to encourage them to seek HKAS accreditation if they have not yet been accredited, and work with HKCTC to promote these accreditation services.

Innovation and Technology Commission  
May 2021

**Applications Received, Number of Accredited Organisations Involved and Accreditations Granted in the Past Five Years**

2020	Applications Received		Accredited Organisations Involved		Accreditations Granted <sup>Note 1</sup>	
	Initial Application	Extension Application	Initial Application	Extension Application	Initial Application	Extension Application
HOKLAS	21	149	21	88	14	170
HKCAS	3	11	3	8	0	22
HKIAS	2	8	2	8	1	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>199</b>

2019	Applications Received		Accredited Organisations Involved		Accreditations Granted <sup>Note 1</sup>	
	Initial Application	Extension Application	Initial Application	Extension Application	Initial Application	Extension Application
HOKLAS	12	188	12	101	11	211
HKCAS	0	35	0	18	7	26
HKIAS	0	16	0	13	1	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>251</b>

2018	Applications Received		Accredited Organisations Involved		Accreditations Granted <sup>Note 1</sup>	
	Initial Application	Extension Application	Initial Application	Extension Application	Initial Application	Extension Application
HOKLAS	20	181	18 <sup>Note 2</sup>	92	12	249
HKCAS	1	28	1	16	0	19
HKIAS	1	9	1	8	1	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>272</b>

2017	Applications Received		Accredited Organisations Involved		Accreditations Granted <sup>Note 1</sup>	
	Initial Application	Extension Application	Initial Application	Extension Application	Initial Application	Extension Application
HOKLAS	12	199	12	99	15	255
HKCAS	2	29	2	16	2	36
HKIAS	3	4	3	4	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>294</b>

2016	Applications Received		Accredited Organisations Involved		Accreditations Granted <sup>Note 1</sup>	
	Initial Application	Extension Application	Initial Application	Extension Application	Initial Application	Extension Application
HOKLAS	12	198	12	100	13	263
HKCAS	0	27	0	16	1	33
HKIAS	1	3	1	3	0	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>300</b>

Note 1: As accreditations granted involve not only applications received in the same year, the number of accreditations granted and the number of applications received each year do not necessarily be the same.

Note 2: The applications first submitted by two of the organisations was incorrect and rejected. They therefore submitted the applications again and the number of initial applications received that year was counted as 20.