

## **ACCREDIA's Policy for Quality and Impartiality**

The basic principles on which ACCREDIA's Quality and Impartiality Policy is based are to ensure the objectivity of its activities and to gain the trust of all the parties involved in its operations (stakeholders).

Respect for these principles is achieved through the implementation of a Management System in conformity with the Standard ISO/IEC 17011, with the rules established by the EA/MLA, ILAC/MRA and IAF/MRA Agreements of Mutual Recognition, and the provisions of Regulation CE 765/08, with the Interministerial Decree of 22 December 2009 and with ACCREDIA's Statute.

ACCREDIA commits to operate with transparency and confidentiality in order to ensure impartiality, independence and the absence of any kind of discrimination in the accreditation processes. In particular, all its staff, including assessors and technical experts and members of the corporate bodies, are required to operate with independence, impartiality and objectivity. In addition, the decisions of the Sector Accreditation Committees, Corporate bodies competent for the various areas of accreditation, are made independently from the conformity assessment body under consideration.

A central element of ACCREDIA's Quality and Impartiality Policy is the Code of Ethics and Conduct, made public by the body through its website, which defines the principles of behaviour to be followed, based on the concepts of integrity, honesty, transparency, and fairness in carrying out accreditation processes. The Code of Ethics and Conduct was drawn up also taking into account the provisions of Italian law regarding the liability of legal entities for offences committed by their personnel, as well as the international voluntary regulations on the prevention and fight against corruption.

ACCREDIA has also adopted a method for assessing and managing threats to impartiality and conflicts of interest that may arise during the performance of its activities, based in particular on a thorough Risk Analysis, which is periodically monitored, reviewed, and updated.

The overall assessment of the results of this management is entrusted to an independent body, the Steering and Guarantee Committee (CIG), which meets periodically with the task of expressing the contribution of the ACCREDIA Members and other interested parties concerning the "formulation of the operative policies and the good functioning of the Accreditation Body, in order to ensure the competence, transparency and impartiality of its work, as defined in the applicable normative requirements" (article 19 of the ACCREDIA Statute).

Each residual risk is assessed by the Directive Council, as ACCREDIA's top management body, to determine whether it falls within the acceptable threshold. Other governing bodies must comply with this framework—comprising the guidelines issued by the General Steering Committee and the decisions made by the Directive Council. For example, the Sector Accreditation Committees, which are responsible for halting accreditation processes if the prescribed conditions are not met.

Based on the values of independence, authoritativeness, impartiality, competence, transparency, and with the aim of increasing market trust in the conformity assessments issued by accredited bodies, ACCREDIA is committed to ensuring the quality of its accreditation services, in compliance with the requirements of international standards.

In implementing this policy, ACCREDIA defines and commits to achieving its strategic, institutional, and operational objectives, aimed at:

- promoting the importance of accreditation as a tool for reducing trade barriers and fostering sustainable development;
- increasing the credibility/trust of the market (Institutions, Businesses, and Consumers) and society in the conformity assessment system;
- strengthening ACCREDIA's positioning with respect to national and international institutional stakeholders.

This Policy, approved by the Directive Council and the Steering and Guarantee Committee, is binding for all personnel of the Body, including the Members of its Governing Bodies, and is made publicly available on ACCREDIA's website.

**The President  
of the Directive Council**