

QCI/PADD/Notification/Schemes/2026-27/03

30 April 2026

To,
All Provisionally Approved Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs)
Under PAD Division Schemes, QCI

Subject: Transition to NABCB Accreditation – Your Next Step Towards a Stronger, More Credible Quality Practice

Dear All CABs,

Thank you for your continued association with the PAD Division. The work that your organisation does in assessment and certification contributes meaningfully to raising quality standards across the sectors we serve — and that, in its own way, is part of the larger effort to build a quality infrastructure that India needs as it grows into a more competitive, trusted economy.

Each of the schemes administered by the PAD Division prescribes accreditation by the **National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB)** as a condition for CABs to operate under those schemes on a sustained basis. The Provisional Approval (PA) route was always intended as a starting point — a bridge that allows CABs to begin operations while working towards full accreditation. We are now at a stage where that journey needs to be completed.

Accreditation by NABCB brings with it a formal, independent assessment of your technical competence and systems — something that adds weight to the certifications your clients receive. It aligns your operations with relevant ISO/IEC standards applicable to your scheme, and gives regulators, scheme owners, and end-users a reliable basis for confidence in your work. These are outcomes that strengthen your organisation from within, not just on paper. To support this transition, the PAD Division has put together a structured timeline (enclosed as Annexure-I) that takes into account the varying stages at which different CABs currently are. We have made every effort to ensure that each CAB gets adequate time — at least 11 months — to complete the accreditation process. During this period, PAD Division will also hold back its own PA assessment activities, so that your resources and attention can be directed towards NABCB accreditation without parallel obligations.

We request you to initiate enrolment with NABCB at the earliest, keeping the applicable deadline in view. Once enrolled, please do keep us informed of your progress. The complete updated procedure — **“Procedure for Provisional Approval and Extension, PAD Division” (Version 3, dated 30 April 2026)** — is enclosed for your reference.

Two other operational matters to flag: a revised fee structure (Revision 13) comes into effect alongside this notification, and advance payment of invoices will be required before commencement of any certification or assessment activities, as communicated earlier on 29 January 2026.

Should you have any questions about the transition timelines or the accreditation process, please do reach out to us. We are happy to assist.

Yours faithfully,



Dr. Priyanka Sarkar
Project Manager, PAD Division
Quality Council of India

Enclosure:

- Annexure-I: Procedure for Provisional Approval and Extension – PAD Division (V3, 30 April 2026), including the transition plan for NABCB accreditation.

CC:

- All Provisionally Approved CABs
- CEO, NABCB

ANNEXURE-I

Transition Plan – NABCB Accreditation Timelines by CAB Category

#	Status of CAB	Validity Period / Cycle	Extension to be Granted
1	CABs on Renewed Provisional Approval	Expiring after 31st March 2027	No extension shall be granted
		Expiring on or before 31st March 2027	Till 31st March 2027
2	CABs on First-Time Provisional Approval	Expiring on or before 31st Oct 2026	Till 31st March 2027
		Expiring between 1st Nov 2026 and 31st March 2027	Maximum 06 months from the date of expiry
		Expiring after 31st March 2027	Maximum 06 months from the date of expiry
3	New CABs	As per PA cycle	Maximum 06 months from the date of expiry

Note: Best effort has been made to accord at least 11 months of transition time to each category of CAB.