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International Equivalence for Personnel Certification

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India's **national accreditation body**, the National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (**NABCB**), has **secured international equivalence for its accreditation programme for personnel certification bodies** in the annual meeting of the **Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation** in Singapore on 20th June, 2019.

- NABCB signed the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) of the Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) based on the international standard, ISO/IEC 17024.
- **ISO/IEC 17024** specifies criteria for the operation of a Personnel Certification Bodies (also known as a certification body for persons).

Personnel Certification Bodies are the one which confirm the competence of an individual to perform a specified service (of electrician, welder etc.) or duty through an issue of a certificate.

- With this recognition, NABCB hopes to **facilitate export of Indian services and skills** into the world market by attesting that persons are certified following international standards by the certifying bodies.
- This would support many professionals in India, especially those who do not have formal education or certificate programme. **Any person carrying ISO/IEC 17024 certificate with NABCB logo will be recognized internationally.**

NABCB

NABCB, a **constituent board of Quality Council of India**, an autonomous body attached to the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, is responsible for **accreditation of certification/inspection bodies** as per applicable international standards under an international system of equivalence.

Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation

- The Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) was established on **1st January 2019**.

- Its primary role is to manage and expand a mutual recognition arrangement (MRA) among accreditation bodies in the Asia Pacific region.
- The MRA **facilitates the acceptance of conformity assessment results** (e.g. test reports, test certificates, inspection reports, and certification) across the region and with other regions around the world.
- APAC is **recognized by the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)** as one of four APEC Specialist Regional Bodies (SRBs) that support the work of the APEC Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance.