SUBJECT: Accreditation Program for BA 9000 Body Armor Quality Management System Requirements (BAQMS)

APPLIES TO: BA 9000 BAQMS ANAB-Accredited and Applicant Certification Bodies

PREFACE
This Accreditation Rule is to inform certification bodies (CBs) of ANAB requirements for accreditation to certify organizations for body armor management systems conforming with BA 9000.

ACCREDITATION RULE

1. Requirement Documents (current versions unless specified)
   1.1. ISO 9001, Quality management systems – Requirements
   1.2. BA 9000, National Institute of Justice Body Armor Quality Management System Requirements (available from www.justnet.org/)
   1.3. ISO/IEC 17021-1, Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems
   1.4. MA 5000, ANAB Accreditation Manual, and applicable ANAB Accreditation Rules
   1.5. IAF Mandatory Documents as applicable

2. Prerequisites
   2.1. A CB shall be accredited or attain accreditation concurrently to certify organizations for ISO 9001 quality management systems.

3. Application Process
   3.1. CBs can obtain applications for informational use at www.anab.org.
   3.2. The application process outlined at www.anab.org must be completed via ANAB’s Enterprise Quality Manager (EQM) database when the CB is ready to apply for accreditation.
   3.3. The application fee includes the cost of one assessor day for the off-site documentation review.

4. Initial Assessments for Accreditation
   4.1. An ANAB accreditation assessor shall conduct a full documentation review.
   4.2. After the documents are found acceptable, ANAB shall conduct an office assessment and required witnessed audits.
      4.2.1. The office assessment shall be conducted on site or remotely (at ANAB’s discretion) and is conducted to ensure the CB’s certification process for BAQMS conforms with ISO/IEC 17021-1.
      4.2.2. ANAB shall witness the CB conducting a two-stage audit process (stages 1 and 2).
         4.2.2.1. The ANAB assessment team shall have the same number of members as the CB audit team.
4.2.2.3. Because of the level of expertise needed, ANAB may use technical experts for BA 9000 witnessed audits. ANAB will invoice the CB for the fees and expenses of the technical expert.

5. Surveillance Assessments

5.1. ANAB shall conduct an annual office assessment and annually witness a CB team conducting a BAQMS audit.

5.1.1. When possible, the office assessment shall be conducted concurrently with assessments for other ANAB accreditation programs for which the CB is accredited.

5.1.2. During the accreditation cycle, ANAB shall evaluate the CB’s full system audit process during at least one annual witnessed audit (stages 1 and 2 certification audit or recertification). The additional witnessed audits required in the accreditation cycle are based on the CB’s audit activity and management system findings, and include audit types such as surveillance, special, multi-site, scope expansion, transfer, integrated, ASRP, and/or CAAT. ANAB Accreditation Rule 18 outlines the witnessed audit scheduling process and the process for potentially altering the types of audits witnessed.

5.1.3. Because of the level of expertise needed, ANAB may use technical experts for BA 9000 witnessed audits. ANAB will invoice the CB for the fees and expenses of the technical expert.

6. Re-accreditation Assessments

6.1. ANAB shall conduct a document review and an on-site full system office assessment at approximately six months prior to the expiration of accreditation.

7. End User Expected Outcomes for Accredited Certification to BA 9000

7.1 End users can expect an organization with a certified BAQMS to demonstrate improved ability to consistently manufacture ballistic body armor according to documented processes and maintain traceability of component materials.

7.2. The CB shall have processes to ensure that its auditors and other certification personnel are knowledgeable of the expected outcomes and consistently reinforce them with the CB’s clients.