

	GUIDELINE ON FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY AND ACCREDITATION STATUS	Document No:	GL.064-NAC
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1. PURPOSE

This guideline has been prepared to explain, for Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) accredited by NAC or applying for accreditation, how financial sustainability affects accreditation conformity; how the corrective action obligation is to be fulfilled in the event of suspension for financial reasons; and the absolute prohibitions concerning use of the accreditation mark in cases of suspension, withdrawal, scope reduction, or cancellation.

The core message of this guideline is that financial sustainability is not merely a business matter; it is a direct accreditation concern in terms of impartiality, reliability, and the maintenance of accreditation status.

2. SCOPE

The guideline consists of two main parts. Part One addresses financial sustainability within a three-layer framework. Part Two governs the corrective action obligation of a CAB suspended for financial reasons. The final article of Part Two (Article 11) sets out the absolute prohibitions concerning use of the accreditation mark in cases of suspension and withdrawal.

3. DEFINITIONS

For the definitions and abbreviations used in this guideline, the INST.001-NAC Instruction on Definitions and Abbreviations Used in NAC Documentation shall apply.

4. RELATED DOCUMENTS

The interpretations and explanations in this guideline are based on the following documents and standards:

- **ISO/IEC 17011:2017** — Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies.
- **CAB-level standards** — ISO/IEC 17025, ISO/IEC 17020, ISO/IEC 17021-1, ISO/IEC 17065, ISO/IEC 17024, ISO/IEC 17029, ISO 15189, ISO/IEC 17043, ISO 17034.
- **ILAC/IAF documents** — ILAC-P8:11/2023 (use of accreditation symbols and claims of accreditation status), ILAC-P15:05/2020 (application of ISO/IEC 17020), ILAC-G26:11/2018 (application of ISO 15189).
- **NAC documents** — FR.001-NAC Accreditation Agreement, PR.017-NAC Procedure for the Accreditation of Conformity Assessment Bodies, and the GL.001-NAC and GL.002-NAC guidelines.

5. IMPLEMENTATION

PART ONE — Financial Sustainability and Accreditation

Article 1 — Purpose of the Guideline in This Part

Financial sustainability is not merely a business matter for CABs; it is a subject that directly concerns accreditation conformity. ISO/IEC 17011 does not directly require a CAB to demonstrate financial strength; however, the conformity assessment standard to which the CAB is subject and NAC's documents do govern this matter. The accreditation body likewise evaluates the CAB within this framework (ISO/IEC 17011:2017, Clause 1).

Implication for the CAB: The assumption that "my financial situation is none of accreditation's concern" is incorrect. The matter is an area just as auditable as impartiality or competence.

Article 2 – The Three-Layer Framework

The effect of financial inadequacy on accreditation arises from three layers; the CAB must be aware of all three:

- **Layer 1 – Impartiality:** Financial pressure carries the risk of impairing the objectivity of decisions.
- **Layer 2 – The financing clause of the standard:** The certification-family standards explicitly require financial stability.
- **Layer 3 – NAC contractual and procedural obligations:** FR.001-NAC and PR.017-NAC turn financial inadequacy into codified grounds for suspension/withdrawal.

The third layer is critical: within the NAC system, a financial problem is not a risk indicator requiring interpretation, but a nonconformity named in the procedure that produces concrete consequences.

Article 3 – Layer 1: Financial Pressure Is an Impartiality Risk

Basis. For ISO/IEC 17020, ILAC-P15:05/2020 (Cl. 4.1.2 – commercial/financial pressures must not jeopardize impartiality; Cl. 6.1.12 n1) and, for ISO 15189, ILAC-G26:11/2018 (management/personnel being free from financial pressure). For ISO/IEC 17025, the link is established through Cl. 4.1 (Impartiality). Reference should also be made to the ISO/IEC 17021-1, ISO/IEC 17065, and ISO 20387 standards.


NAC counterpart. PR.017-NAC Cl. 5.8.2.1 (b) – if it is established through objective evidence that the structure or activities of the CAB breach the impartiality requirements of the relevant accreditation standard, accreditation is suspended in part or in full.

Implication for the CAB: A tendency to soften decisions because of financial dependence on a single client or because of payment difficulty directly gives rise to an impartiality nonconformity.

Article 4 – Layer 2: The Financing Clause of the Standard

Most of the certification-family standards directly require financial stability. The table below summarizes the nature of financial inadequacy according to the standard to which the CAB is subject:

Standard	Impartiality clause	Explicit financing / liability clause
ISO/IEC 17025	Cl. 4.1 – present	None (similar to 17011)
ISO/IEC 17020	Cl. 4.1.2 – “financial pressure” explicitly named	None (Annex A independence types)
ISO/IEC 17021-1	Cl. 5.2 – present	Present – Cl. 5.3 Responsibility and Financing
ISO/IEC 17065	Cl. 4.2 – present	Present – Cl. 4.3, financial stability explicitly required
ISO/IEC 17024	Cl. 4.3 – present	Present – financing and resources clause
ISO/IEC 17029	Cl. 5.2 – present	Present – Cl. 5.3 Responsibility and Financing

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ISO 15189	Present (reinforced by ILAC-G26)	Version-dependent; strong emphasis on financial pressure
ISO/IEC 17043 / 17034	Present	Generally present (common CASCO structure)
ISO 20387	Cl. 4.2 – present	Present – Cl. 6.1.2

NAC counterpart. PR.017-NAC Cl. 5.9 requires the CAB to obtain adequate professional liability insurance covering the activities for which it is accredited (for public institutions, a declaration of guarantee is sufficient) and states that all legal, financial, and technical liability toward third parties rests with the CAB. This obligation is detailed in the GL.002-NAC guideline.

Article 5 – Layer 3a: Non-payment of the Accreditation Fee Is a Direct Ground for Suspension

This is one of the most concrete and most critical articles of the guideline.

Basis – FR.001-NAC. Cl. 6.4 states that the CAB is obliged to pay NAC’s fees; that legal proceedings will be initiated if payment is not made within 30 days of the invoice date; and that, even if the CAB is found technically competent, the certificate will not be issued/renewed until the fee is paid. Cl. 6.7: fees paid are not refunded under any circumstances.

Basis – PR.017-NAC. Cl. 5.8.2.1 (i) treats a CAB’s failure to meet its financial obligations within 5 days of the invoice date as a direct ground for suspension. Cl. 5.6 stipulates that the certificate remaining in effect is conditional upon each annual accreditation fee being paid within 5 calendar days of the invoice date.

Non-payment of the fee → suspension → if not remedied within the maximum suspension period (6 months) → withdrawal of accreditation (PR.017-NAC Cl. 5.8.2.1 final paragraph; FR.001-NAC Cl. 6.4).

Article 6 – Layer 3b: Notification of Changes to Resources and Structure

Basis – FR.001-NAC. Cl. 4.1.10 (notification 15 days in advance of changes to legal status and address); Cl. 4.1.12 (written notification within 15 days of changes affecting ownership structure, management, and accreditation scope – including personnel, equipment, and systems).

Basis – PR.017-NAC. Cl. 5.8.2.1 (c) – changes to resources/structure and NAC’s assessment of these as a potential risk → suspension. Cl. 5.8.2.1 (d) – failure to notify changes including “location status, resources, personnel, and equipment” → suspension. Cl. 5.9 – notification of these changes to NAC is mandatory.

Implication for the CAB: Financial deterioration often first appears as a loss of resources (departure of personnel, inability to maintain equipment, downsizing of premises). The CAB must not conceal these and must notify them proactively; failure to notify is itself a separate ground for suspension.

Article 7 – Layer 3c: Financial Criminal Record and Management Integrity

Basis – FR.001-NAC Cl. 8.4. Persons convicted of offenses such as embezzlement, extortion, bribery, theft, fraud, forgery, abuse of office, fraudulent bankruptcy, and smuggling may not be partners in a CAB applying for accreditation and may not serve as managers in conformity assessment activities.

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Implication for the CAB: The explicit listing of the offense of “fraudulent bankruptcy” confirms, at the institutional level, the link between financial sustainability and management integrity. Serious financial mismanagement may give rise not merely to a risk but directly to a personal eligibility bar. Article 8 — The Distinction Between an “Administrative” Loss of Status and a “Technical” Nonconformity

Basis — PR.017-NAC Cl. 5.8.5.2. Where the ground for suspension is solely the failure to meet a financial obligation and the CAB subsequently fulfills it, no additional assessment (on-site assessment) is required to lift the suspension.

This provision shows that NAC treats a pure payment lapse as an administrative/contractual matter. By contrast, if financial inadequacy turns into a loss of impartiality (5.8.2.1-b), resources/competence (5.8.2.1-c), or performance (5.8.2.1-a), it is then a technical nonconformity, and remedying it requires a verification assessment.

Practical consequence for the CAB: Resolving a financial problem early and at the payment level alone keeps it confined to an administrative lapse. If the problem deepens and affects resources and impartiality, however, it leads to a much more serious, technical loss of status.

Article 9 — The Accreditation Body’s Risk-Based Perspective

Basis. ISO/IEC 17011 Cl. 4.4.6 NOTE 1 explicitly lists “finance” and “contracts” among the sources of impartiality risk; Cl. 7.4.6 makes risk-based assessment mandatory.

NAC counterpart. PR.017-NAC Cl. 5.3.1 and 5.7.1 — the assessment plan and surveillance activities are carried out on a risk basis; NAC assesses changes to a CAB’s resources and structure as a potential risk (Cl. 5.8.2.1-c).

Implication for the CAB: Financial indicators may come into consideration at every stage, including an unplanned assessment (FR.001-NAC Cl. 4.1.20, 4.1.31).

Article 10 — An Important Limit: Financial Weakness Alone Is Not a Bar

Basis. ISO/IEC 17011 Cl. 4.4.10 requires that access to accreditation not depend on the size of the CAB. NAC has incorporated this principle into its agreement as well (FR.001-NAC, revision dated 01.08.2022, Cl. 5.1.3): access must not depend on the size of the applicant CAB, on membership in an association, or on the number of CABs already accredited.

Implication for the CAB: Being small or having low turnover is not in itself a bar. What is a bar is uncontrolled financial dependence, financial stability that cannot be demonstrated, and unpaid obligations.

Article 11 — Concrete Actions Required of the CAB

- Pay NAC invoices and fees within 5 days of the invoice date (PR.017-NAC Cl. 5.6, 5.8.2.1-i; FR.001-NAC Cl. 6.4).
- Keep valid professional liability insurance continuously up to date (PR.017-NAC Cl. 5.9; GL.002-NAC).
- Be prepared to demonstrate your financial stability with records and documentation, as required by the financing/liability clause of the standard to which you are subject.
- Notify NAC of changes to resources, personnel, equipment, premises, ownership, and management within 15 days (FR.001-NAC Cl. 4.1.10, 4.1.12; PR.017-NAC Cl. 5.8.2.1-d, 5.9).
- Identify and manage sources of financial pressure (such as dependence on a single client) in your impartiality risk analysis.
- Resolve the problem early; a lapse that remains at the payment level stays administrative, whereas a deepening problem turns into a technical loss of status (PR.017-NAC Cl. 5.8.5.2).

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Article 12 – Key Messages

- Financial sustainability is an accreditation matter; it is codified in NAC’s agreement and procedures.
- The effect has three layers: impartiality risk, the financing clause of the standard, and NAC obligations.
- Non-payment of the accreditation fee is a ground for direct suspension and, subsequently, withdrawal pursuant to PR.017-NAC Cl. 5.8.2.1 (i).
- A pure payment lapse is resolved administratively; a financial problem that turns into a loss of impartiality/resources is a technical nonconformity. Inform NAC of financial lapses at your organization and ask for assistance in resolving them.
- Being small is not a bar; uncontrolled dependence and stability that cannot be demonstrated are.

PART TWO – The Corrective Action Obligation of a CAB Suspended for Financial Reasons

Note on time limits: the current provision of PR.017-NAC Cl. 5.8.2.1 (i) allows 5 days from the invoice date for the financial obligation to be met.

Article 1 – A Suspended CAB Is Required to Submit a Corrective Action

A CAB suspended for financial reasons is obliged to submit a corrective action. Suspension is the consequence of a nonconformity defined in the procedure (PR.017-NAC Cl. 5.8.2.1-i), and no nonconformity closes itself. The accreditation body must see objective evidence before the nonconformity can be closed. This is not a choice but an operating rule of the system.

Article 2 – This CA Is Not a “Technical Competence” CA

The nonconformity here is of the nature of “failure to meet a financial obligation arising from the accreditation agreement”; it differs from technical nonconformities such as calibration, personnel competence, method validation, or traceability. Accordingly, the content of the CA is likewise not technical but rests on a financial/contractual and structural-financial footing. Writing a technical CA of the “personnel trained, equipment calibrated” type for a financial nonconformity is beside the point and does not close the nonconformity.

Article 3 – The Four Elements of the CA Must Be Fully Satisfied

A corrective action consists of four elements, and the nonconformity cannot be closed unless all four are satisfied:

- **Definition of the nonconformity** – the CAB explicitly acknowledges the problem.
- **Root cause analysis** – establishing whether the problem is temporary or structural (Article 6).
- **Correction** – payment/settlement of the debt. This is only an immediate fix.
- **Corrective action** – systematic measures that prevent recurrence.

Critical warning: Submitting payment alone satisfies only the third element of the CA. A CA in which the root cause and corrective action dimensions are left blank is incomplete and is not sufficient to close the nonconformity.

Article 4 – A “Payment Has Been Made” Response Is, on Its Own, Open to Rejection

Submitting only a payment receipt does not dispel the accreditation body’s suspicion that “the same situation will recur.” The accreditation body may find a CA that lacks a root cause analysis and recurrence-prevention measures inadequate and reject it. In that case the nonconformity remains open and the suspension process continues to run.

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Article 5 – Definitive Principle: Payment Does Not Mean Automatic Reinstatement of Accreditation

The notion that “I have paid the money, so my accreditation will come back immediately” is incorrect and contrary to how the system operates.

The reasons for this are definitive:

- **Lifting a suspension is a decision, not an automatic action.** All status changes — suspension, lifting, withdrawal — are made by the Accreditation Decision Committee (ADC) (PR.017-NAC Cl. 5.5, 5.8.3). Payment does not, by itself, produce this decision.
- **The phrase “no additional assessment is required” does not mean “it is renewed automatically.”** The exemption in PR.017-NAC Cl. 5.8.5.2 says only that a separate on-site assessment is not required. The processes of formally closing the nonconformity, submitting the CA, verifying the payment, and the ADC’s decision to lift the suspension still apply.
- **The exemption is narrow in scope.** The facility in Cl. 5.8.5.2 is limited to the case where the ground for suspension is exclusively the failure to meet a financial obligation. If, during the suspension period or in the root cause analysis, another nonconformity relating to a loss of impartiality, competence, or resources emerges, this exemption does not apply; a full-scope CA and, where necessary, an on-site assessment become mandatory.
- **The time limit is strict.** Payment and the remedying of the nonconformity must be completed within the maximum suspension period of 6 months (PR.017-NAC Cl. 5.8.2.1 final paragraph). If this period is exceeded, accreditation is withdrawn (FR.001-NAC Cl. 6.4; PR.017-NAC Cl. 5.8.2.2-a), and re-accreditation is processed from scratch as an initial accreditation application.
- **Other conditions for the certificate to remain in effect are also required.** Pursuant to PR.017-NAC Cl. 5.6, the validity of the certificate depends on full compliance with the relevant ISO/IEC standard, NAC rules, and ILAC/IAF/APAC/IAAC policies being maintained together.
- **Activity carried out during the suspension period carries a heavy cost.** If the accreditation mark is used or reference is made to accredited status during the suspension/withdrawal period, legal proceedings are initiated pursuant to FR.001-NAC Cl. 4.1.35.

Payment is a necessary condition for lifting the suspension; but on its own it is not sufficient. Lifting the suspension requires the nonconformity to be properly closed, the CA to be accepted, and a favorable decision by the ADC.

Article 6 – How the Process of Lifting a Suspension Works

For a CAB suspended for financial reasons, lifting the suspension is a process, not something that happens by itself:

- The CAB pays its debt within the maximum suspension period and submits objective evidence (correction).
- The CAB submits the CA addressing the suspension decision (including root cause + corrective action) to NAC via FR.041-NAC.
- The Accreditation Officer completes the file and submits it to the Accreditation Decision Committee.
- The ADC VP assesses that the nonconformity is closed and decides to lift the suspension.
- The decision is notified to the CAB in writing and the status is updated on the NAC website.

The on-site assessment exemption (Cl. 5.8.5.2) removes from this chain only a separate site visit at the fourth step; it does not eliminate the decision itself.

Article 7 – Distinguishing the Two Scenarios: A Pure Delay, or Structural Weakness?

- **Scenario A – A pure/temporary lapse:** A one-time cash-flow delay. The CA is closed with payment and a simple monitoring mechanism; the Cl. 5.8.5.2 exemption is applicable in this scenario.
- **Scenario B – Systematic financial weakness:** If the CAB cannot even cover the annual

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accreditation fee in a sustainable manner, the problem is no longer administrative. The accreditation body separately assesses the effect of financial sustainability on impartiality and competence; the Cl. 5.8.5.2 exemption no longer applies.

The CAB must honestly set out the Scenario A/B distinction in its root cause analysis; concealing or downplaying this leads to a loss of trust at the accreditation body and to a prolongation of the process.

Article 8 – The ILAC Link: Economic Pressure Is a Source of “Undue Pressure”

For ISO/IEC 17020, ILAC-P15 requires that commercial/financial pressures not jeopardize impartiality; for ISO 15189, ILAC-G26 requires management and personnel to be free from all commercial and financial pressure. In Scenario B, serious financial weakness gives rise to exposure to client pressure, commercial concession, and the risk of an improper favorable decision. For this reason the accreditation body does not stop at “has payment been made?”; it also assesses the effect of financial sustainability on the impartiality of decisions.

Article 9 – Suggested CA Content and Sample Wording

A mature CA should fully cover the four elements and should also address the impartiality dimension against the possibility of Scenario B. A sample closing statement for CABs:

“Our organization has assessed that the failure to meet a financial obligation on time may constitute not merely a contractual delay but a potential risk to impartiality and sustainability. In this regard, financial planning mechanisms have been reviewed, a monitoring and early-warning system has been established for critical accreditation obligations, and the possible effects of economic pressures on conformity assessment activities have been addressed at the management review level.”

Article 10 – Checklist for the CAB

- Acknowledge the nonconformity clearly; do not downplay it.
- Pay the debt within the maximum suspension period (6 months) and submit objective evidence.
- Perform a root cause analysis; honestly establish whether it is Scenario A or B.
- Define systematic corrective actions that will prevent recurrence.
- If it is Scenario B, also analyze the impartiality effect and add it to the CA.
- Submit the CA within the prescribed time and in the prescribed form (FR.041-NAC); await the ADC VP decision — payment alone does not lift the suspension.
- During the suspension, do not use the accreditation mark and do not refer to accredited status (FR.001-NAC Cl. 4.1.35).

Article 11 – Absolute Prohibition: The Accreditation Logo/Mark May Not Be Used in Cases of Suspension, Withdrawal, Scope Reduction, or Cancellation

This article is the most critical and exceptionless rule of Part Two. The provisions below are not recommendations but absolute obligations.

11.1 – Basic Rule: An Absolute and Exceptionless Prohibition

A CAB whose accreditation has been suspended, withdrawn in part or in full, reduced in scope, or has expired may not, under any circumstances, use the NAC accreditation logo, mark, or accreditation certificate within the affected scope; it may not make any statement or implication that it is accredited. Urgently notify your status to any bodies to which membership was obtained using the NAC accreditation certificate.

Basis. FR.001-NAC Cl. 4.1.35 — when status is suspended/withdrawn/expired, the CAB may not use the accreditation logo in its activities or certificates and may not make claims or references implying

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that it is accredited by NAC. PR.017-NAC Cl. 5.8.3 — from the decision date, the CAB may not use the NAC accreditation mark and certificate in reports, certificates, websites, advertising documents, or any other platform relating to the suspended/withdrawn/reduced scope; it may make no reference to accreditation.

11.2 — Scope of the Prohibition: All Channels Without Exception

The prohibition covers not only reports and certificates but every channel in which reference to accreditation could be made. These include — without being limited to — the following:

- Test/inspection/calibration reports and certification certificates,
- Letterhead, quotations/price offers, contract annexes,
- Website, social media accounts, digital content,
- Advertising, brochures, promotional and trade-fair materials,
- Calibration/inspection labels,
- Email signatures, business cards, corporate presentations,
- Vehicle wraps, building signage, and every visible promotional element.

Basis. PR.017-NAC Cl. 5.9 — in the event of suspension or withdrawal, the CAB may not use promotional materials containing accreditation information; it must immediately cease use of materials indicating accredited status and discontinue advertising stating that it is an accredited body.

11.3 — When the Prohibition Begins: The Decision Date (Not the Notification Date)

The prohibition begins not from the date of notification to the CAB but from the decision date of the Accreditation Decision Committee VP. The CAB is deemed to have ceased use of the mark from the moment the status change takes effect, without waiting for the notification to reach it.

Basis. PR.017-NAC Cl. 5.8.3 — for status change decisions, the decision report date of the Accreditation Decision Committee is taken as the basis.

11.4 — Documents Issued Between the Decision Date and the Notification Date Are Withdrawn

If a document bearing the accreditation mark has been issued between the decision date and the notification date, such documents are deemed to be outside the accreditation scope and are withdrawn by the CAB. The defense that “the notification had not yet arrived” is not valid (PR.017-NAC Cl. 5.8.3).

11.5 — Not Only the Logo: Any Form of Reference Is Also Prohibited

The prohibition is not limited to the visual logo/symbol. Any spoken or written expression implying accreditation status — such as “we are accredited by NAC,” “accredited laboratory/body,” or “holding ILAC recognition” — is also within the scope of the prohibition. During the suspension, the CAB may make no reference whatsoever to accreditation.

Basis. FR.001-NAC Cl. 4.1.35; PR.017-NAC Cl. 5.8.3. The use of accreditation symbols and claims of status is governed at the international level by ILAC-P8:11/2023; that document explicitly makes the misrepresentation of accreditation status subject to sanction.

11.6 — Recall of Marked Documents and Notification of Clients

In the event of suspension/withdrawal/scope reduction, the CAB:

- Is obliged to withdraw the documents, certificates, and reports it has issued bearing the accreditation mark,
- Must inform its affected clients of the situation without delay,
- Is obliged to return all accreditation-related documents whose return NAC requests,

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- Must submit records of the activities it has carried out to NAC.

Basis. FR.001-NAC Cl. 4.1.35, 4.1.39; PR.017-NAC Cl. 5.8.3, 5.9.

11.7 – Sanctions: Deterrent and Multifaceted

Every use in breach of the prohibition produces serious consequences:

- **Breach of contract:** Any misuse of the accreditation certificate and/or mark is deemed a breach of the Accreditation Agreement (FR.001-NAC Cl. 8.1).
- **Legal proceedings:** If a breach is established, NAC reserves the right to initiate legal proceedings without delay (FR.001-NAC Cl. 4.1.35; PR.017-NAC Cl. 5.8.3).
- **Publication of the breach and additional measures:** NAC has the right to take measures – including corrective action, suspension, withdrawal, public announcement of the breach, and legal proceedings – against false/unauthorized claims of accreditation and the misleading use of symbols (FR.001-NAC Cl. 6.5). ILAC-P8:11/2023 likewise lists, among the sanctions for misrepresentation, publication of the breach and, where necessary, legal proceedings.
- **Giving rise to a new nonconformity:** Misleading/unauthorized use of the mark is, in itself, a separate ground for suspension/withdrawal (PR.017-NAC Cl. 5.8.2.1-j, 5.8.2.2-e). The breach deepens the existing problem and drags the CAB into a more severe loss of status.

11.8 – The ILAC/IAF MRA-MLA Marks Are Also Within the Scope of the Prohibition

The prohibition is not limited to the NAC logo; the ILAC MRA and IAF MLA marks and any claim of international recognition likewise may not be used during the suspension/withdrawal period. In its use of the mark, the CAB is obliged to comply, pursuant to FR.001-NAC Cl. 4.1.27, with GL.007-NAC, GL.017-NAC.TCL, and the relevant ILAC/IAF documents (ILAC-P8, ILAC R7, IAF ML2).

11.9 – Resumption of Use: Only After a Favorable ADC Decision

The accreditation mark may be used again only following the Accreditation Decision Committee's decision to lift the suspension/grant re-accreditation, and only within the accredited scope. Payment of the debt does not, on its own, permit use of the mark (see Article 5). The return to use of the mark depends on the favorable decision taking effect (FR.001-NAC Cl. 4.1.23).

11.10 – Definitive Checklist for the CAB


- From the decision date, immediately remove the logo, mark, certificate, and any reference to accreditation from every channel.
- Review your website, social media, letterhead, email signature, advertising, and promotional materials; leave no trace of accreditation.
- Withdraw documents/certificates issued bearing the mark; inform affected clients without delay.
- Return the accreditation documents whose return NAC requests.
- Make no spoken or written statement referring to accreditation.
- Resume use of the mark only after a favorable ADC decision and within scope.

For a CAB under suspension, withdrawal, scope reduction, or cancellation, use of the accreditation logo/mark is prohibited without exception. Every use in breach of this prohibition gives rise to a penalty charge, breach of contract, legal proceedings, and a fresh ground for withdrawal. The right to use the mark is regained only by a favorable decision of the Accreditation Decision Committee.

Article 12 – Conclusion

A CAB suspended for financial reasons is required to submit a complete corrective action. This CA is not a technical competence CA but a document proving that the financial/contractual nonconformity has been remedied and will not recur.

Making payment does not automatically restore accreditation. Lifting the suspension depends on the

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nonconformity being properly closed, the corrective action being accepted, the maximum suspension period being observed, and a favorable decision by the Accreditation Decision Committee. If the time limit is not observed, accreditation is withdrawn, and re-accreditation is processed from scratch as an initial accreditation application.

This framework completes the main thesis of Part One: a financial problem lies on a spectrum between an administrative delay and a structural impartiality risk, and the depth of the corrective action is the primary evidence of where the CAB stands on that spectrum.