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Subject: ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE OF THE ENGINEERING ACCREDITATION BOARD			
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**ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE
OF
THE ENGINEERING ACCREDITATION BOARD**

Document Reference: EAB-A00 - 20220506

Short Title: Administration and Governance of EAB

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Purpose of this Document

This document explains the steps taken by the Institution of Engineers Mauritius to establish an engineering programme accreditation regime and provide it with the instruments to administer and govern it in accordance with the policy of the IEM.

Note: Expressions used in this document shall have the meaning given in Section 7.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Rules and Regulations (the Constitution) of Institution of Engineers Mauritius (IEM), founded in 1948 and registered under the Registration of Associations Act on 19 November 1953, were amended on 13th October 2017, following approval of a resolution of the IEM Executive Committee, also referred to as IEM Council, to make provision for the establishment of an autonomous Engineering Accreditation Board (EAB). The amendment tasked EAB, inter-alia, with the accreditation of engineering education offered by the Higher Educational Institutions established in Mauritius, in accordance with the Policies that the Council shall deem appropriate to approve and which, in the first instance, shall concern engineering degree programmes suitable for practice of engineering at the professional level. The Constitution was further amended on the 17th December 2021 to enhance the autonomy of the Engineering Accreditation Board, which is an essential requirement of the International Engineering Alliance for the Washington Accord: the accreditation body must be autonomous and be able to take accreditation decisions without any external influences.
- 1.2 EAB shall accredit programmes delivered to an academic standard advocated by the International Engineering Alliance (IEA), and substantially equivalent to that practised by the signatory members of the Washington Accord, while satisfying the academic

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requirements for registration with the Council of Registered Professional Engineers as well as for admission into the Corporate Membership grades of IEM.

- 1.3 EAB shall work towards the fulfilment of IEM's objective to promote excellence in engineering education through the establishment of an appropriate framework for setting and implementing standards and procedures for accreditation of engineering degree programmes to internationally recognised standards for entry into practice of engineering.

2. Authority stemming from the IEM Constitution

2.1 Engineering Accreditation Board


The Council established an Engineering Accreditation Board (EAB) which, upon request from Higher Educational Institutions, will undertake the accreditation of the engineering degree programmes that are intended for students desiring entry into professional engineering practice in Mauritius, against Accreditation Standards and Procedures approved by the Council. The functions and responsibilities of the EAB are set out in document **EAB Doc 001: *Terms of Reference (Duties and Responsibilities) of the EAB.***

2.2 Documentation Review Committee (DRC)

The DRC is was set up by EAB under Section 2.2.8 of the IEM Constitution, to report on the conformity or otherwise of the EAB's standards and criteria and procedures with those advocated by the Washington Accord and to make recommendations thereon for such policy review as the EAB may deem necessary;

The Constitution of IEM provides for setting up a three to five member Documentation Review Committee, in accordance with the provisions of the Governance Manual, comprising at least two engineering professionals from the faculties of engineering of the Higher Educational Institutions agreeable to serve EAB, and at least one registered professional engineer from among persons outside the academia who are knowledgeable about Washington Accord Standards and Accreditation procedures. The Duties and Responsibilities of the DRC are set out in document **DRC 001: *Terms of Reference of the DRC.*** These include, reporting to the EAB Chair on:

- (i) Status of conformity between EAB's Accreditation Standards, System and Procedures with the requirements of Washington Accord.

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- (ii) The EAB's capacity (viz. adequacy and quality of resources) for handling and sustaining current level of accreditation activity.
 - (iii) The responsiveness of the EAB's Governance Structure to the delivery of IEM's objectives in relation to engineering accreditation and the needs of Programme providers.
 - (iv) The effectiveness of Internal and External Reviews and Audits on the EAB's accreditation system and processes and operations.
 - (v) DRC's views on stakeholders' feedback on the extent to which the EAB meets an essential national need and aspiration and provides a service of an international level in matters of engineering degree programme accreditation.
 - (vii) The DRC shall advise the EAB Chairperson on any amendments that may be required to the Governance manual of the EAB for conformity with Washington Accord requirements or to incorporate issues of relevance to the local environment or regional needs.


The Constitution of IEM provides that Members of the Documentation Review Committee (DRC) shall be honorary members, and while their responsibility will be to review the Standards, Criteria and Procedures put in place by the EAB, their terms of reference shall exclude any involvement with the conduct of the accreditation or evaluation by the Programme Evaluation Team or decision-taking process by the Accreditation Committee or attending any of the Team's work sessions. The Chairperson of the DRC shall report to the EAB, through the EAB Chairperson.

2.3 Other Sub-Committees

EAB shall set up Sub Committees for discharging responsibilities and tasks required in furtherance of its objectives, and this will include an Appeal Committee (to consider and decide on appeals by HEIs against accreditation decisions taken by EAB).

3. Management of the Engineering Accreditation Board


- 3.1 EAB shall comprise thirteen (13) members satisfying the criteria set down in the Governance Manual, appointed by the President of IEM after a due process of consultation with an ad-hoc Consultative Committee on Engineering Accreditation (CCEA), as follows:

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- (i) the IEM President (by virtue of holding that office);
- (ii) three (3) other members from IEM, after consultation with the Council, from the grade of MIEM or FIEM, with no immediate academic contractual links with the academia;
- (iii) three (3) members from the Engineering faculties or Departments of Public and Private Tertiary Educational Institutions, after consultation with the concerned Dean or Head, whose teaching experience includes at least 5 years' teaching/tutoring students on engineering design and/or guiding project work, selected in such a manner that there is at least one member from either the Public or Private category of institutions;
- (iv) three (3) members nominated by the Council of Registered Professional Engineers Mauritius (CRPE), with no contractual academic links with the academia;
- (v) three (3) members chosen, after consultation with the EAB Chair, from among nominees of Professional Engineering Institutions or Societies other than IEM or from the academia, notwithstanding their being members of IEM.
- (vi) Further to the members nominated under sub-Section (3.1), the EAB may additionally enlist up to 4 co-opted members, appointed by the EAB Chair in consultation with the nominated members, to support the EAB in any particular branch of engineering or field of engineering expertise where a lack thereof is felt. At least one of these must be from academia and one from the industry. Co-opted members shall meet the qualifications and experience provisions for academic or practising engineers.
- (vii) The Engineering Accreditation Board shall implement the Accreditation Policy of the Institution;
- (viii) The EAB has total autonomy and freedom from external influences in matters relating to the conduct of accreditation and decision process.
- (ix) The EAB shall not be required to explain or justify any decision taken in matters of accreditation of an HEI's programme to any external party or authority, beyond clarifying the specific standards, criteria or procedure(s) that underpinned its decision.

3.2 IEM President shall designate the EAB Chair from among the members identified in sub-section 3.1(ii) to. (v).


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4. Administration

- 4.1 IEM will facilitate the secondment of IEM staff on the EAB's establishment for which purpose EAB may call upon IEM staff resources and time for administrative support for EAB meetings and visit.
- 4.2 IEM will arrange for EAB to be serviced by one staff at the level of Administrator (Accreditation) (AA) with responsibility for the administration of EAB and discharge duties spelt out for the Administrator in the Policy document, including attending every meeting of the EAB and other associated Boards. The Administrator (Accreditation) shall be provided with secretarial services by IEM. The EAB, DRC, and other committees shall hold their meetings at IEM House, unless the respective Chairperson decides on an alternative location.
- 5.3 EAB will promote quality of engineering education in the Republic of Mauritius by setting its accreditation standards, criteria and procedures to those of the IEA for Professional Engineers and, when deemed appropriate, consider accreditation benchmarked on the standard of the European Network for Accreditation of Engineering Education (the ENAEE).
- 5.4 EAB's operating budget shall be submitted to IEM Council for consideration of funding and its Annual Accounts shall be subject to auditing by IEM's independent auditors.

6. Policy and Autonomy

- 6.1 EAB shall conform its operations to the policies and procedures and guidelines set out in the Engineering Accreditation Governance Manual dated 4th September 2017, and as may be amended from time to time, and IEM Council shall ensure that the EAB has total autonomy and freedom from external influences in matters relating to the conduct of accreditation and decision process.
- 6.2 EAB shall give due consideration to the fact that IEM has undertaken a commitment to satisfy the requirements of the IEA, in the first instance towards seeking admission as a Provisional Member of the Washington Accord and eventually to seek upgrading to Signatory status of the Accord. This implies meeting all those requirements as spelt out in the Rules and Procedures of the IEA and summarised in Schedule B1, for Provisional Membership, and Schedule B2 for Signatory status. IEM is also committed to discharge all of its obligations that shall arise from an eventual membership of the Accord.

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- 6.3 EAB shall as soon as practicable, after its constitution, establish itself within the premises of the Institution of Engineers Mauritius at IEM House and engage with the Regulatory Authority for engineering practice, the Higher Educational Authorities and the Higher Educational Institutions, as well as the Professional Engineering Institutions and the Industry, and hold briefing sessions and workshops as may be necessary towards apprising them of its Roles and Responsibilities for enhancing the academic standard of engineering education in Mauritius.
- 6.4 EAB shall, in the discharge of its obligations, draw guidance from the best practices of the IEA and the accreditation systems put in place by signatories of the Washington Accord and establish such structures as it may deem appropriate, within the Accreditation Policy of IEM, to conduct accreditation evaluations, visits to HEI premises, and decide on the outcome and communicate the decisions called for and permitted in the document **EAB-A10-P:Policy on Accreditation of Engineering Degree Programmes**, including hearing and deciding on any appeal as may arise following the communication of its decision.

7.0 Terms used in this document.


IEM Executive Committee: The management committee of the Institution of Engineers Mauritius constituted as per the Constitution of that body.

International Engineering Alliance (IEA): The global not-for-profit organisation comprising professional engineering bodies, including regulatory bodies, within which several Accords, including Washington Accord, and four International Agreements, including the International Professional Engineers Agreement function to govern the recognition of engineering educational qualifications and professional competence.

Washington Accord: a multi-lateral agreement between bodies responsible for accreditation or recognition of tertiary-level engineering qualifications within their jurisdictions.

Higher Education Commission: unless the context suggests otherwise, this is the Commission established pursuant to the relevant provision of the Higher Education Act (2017).

Council of Registered Professional Engineers: The Council established pursuant to the provisions of the Registered Professional Engineers Council (May 1967).

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Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA): The body set up to regulate engineering education in the Republic of South Africa, under the Laws of the Republic of South Africa.


Administrator (Accreditation): The person so designated by the Institution of Engineers Mauritius to act as such and discharge the duties and responsibilities defined for this person in the EAB documentation system, including Document EAB-A10: IEM Accreditation Policy for Engineering Education Programmes.

Schedule B1, B2: The Schedules, so designated in the Rules and Procedures of the International Engineering Alliance, setting out the Requirements to be satisfied by applicant organisations for admission to Provisional membership and Upgrading to Signatory status of the Washington Accord respectively.

Note: For these and other terms, refer to document **EAB-A01: Background to EAB Accreditation**.

8.0 DOCUMENT REVISION HISTORY

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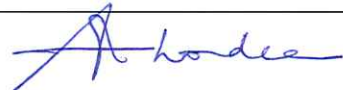

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11-02-2022	Review	DLDhondee	Reformatted and Edited
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