**PL SM 4.4-2021**

**IMPARTIALITY POLICY**

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| Developed | Quality Manager |
| Responsible for revision | Quality Manager |
| Approved | Order No. 251 dated 24.12.2021  |
| Put into effect | From 31.12.2021 |
| Revision | 04 |
| Amendment |  |
| Copy | working |
| Instead | PL SM 4.4-2019 |

*This document defines the policy of the State Enterprise "BSCA" (hereinafter referred to as the BSCA, the accreditation body) to ensure impartiality in the implementation of accreditation activities.*

Ensuring impartiality is one of the main principles of accreditation activities carried out by BSCA.

BSCA fulfills the impartiality requirements established in clause 4.4 of GOST ISO/IEC 17011-2018 "Conformity assessment. Requirements for Accreditation Bodies Accrediting Conformity Assessment Bodies".

BSCA is responsible for the impartiality of its activities and undertakes to take measures to ensure impartiality in the implementation of accreditation activities by managing any conflict of interest, including potential ones.

The structure and management of BSCA are organized in such a way as to ensure impartiality and to avoid any commercial, financial or other pressures that could jeopardize impartiality.

BSCA guarantees impartiality in the implementation of accreditation activities by all BSCA personnel (including hired technical experts, experts, members of technical accreditation committees) by undertaking to disclose any potential conflicts of interest related to its relationship or the relationship of its staff in the implementation of accreditation activities. All decisions on accreditation are made by competent persons who did not participate in the assessment of the competence of the conformity assessment body.

BSCA's top management commits to impartiality by signing the "Top Management Commitment".

The BSCA monitors the impartiality of accreditation activities and takes into account the results of the monitoring when developing policies and procedures for the BSCA management system.

The policies and procedures of the BSCA and their management are non-discriminatory. BSCA provides access to the current versions of documents establishing the requirements for the accreditation of conformity assessment bodies and the accreditation process on BSCA official website [**www.bsca.by**](http://www.bsca.by). The right of access to the services of the BSCA, the amount of payment and the terms of accreditation do not depend on the size of the conformity assessment body, its membership in any association, as well as on the number of already accredited conformity assessment bodies in the declared field of activity.

BSCA does not offer or provide any services that may cast doubt on the impartiality of accreditation activities:

* conformity assessment activities;
* advising on accreditation or preparation for accreditation of conformity assessment bodies.

 BSCA performs the following functions, which are not considered a risk of impartiality:

* organization and participation as lecturers in trainings and conferences, provided that the programs are limited to the provision of general information. BSCA does not provide specific decisions to the conformity assessment body regarding the activities of this organization;
* improving the effectiveness of the assessment by identifying opportunities for improvement when they become apparent during the assessment, without recommending the specific solutions;
* advising other accreditation bodies on issues related to the accreditation process;
* advising scheme holders on issues related to accreditation requirements, including the requirements of relevant conformity assessment standards.

BSCA identifies threats to impartiality, analyzes, assesses, processes, monitors and documents on an ongoing basis the risks of impartiality, taking into account factors affecting the internal and external context of the organization. This process includes the identification of relevant stakeholders, the participation of balanced stakeholder representation without domination by any one party, and consultation with them on issues related to impartiality, including openness and public opinion.

BSCA analyses any residual risk on an ongoing basis to determine whether it is at an acceptable level in order to plan and take timely actions to minimise or eliminate it if necessary (if the level of acceptability is exceeded). If it is not possible to eliminate or minimize the risk of impartiality to an acceptable level, accreditation will not be granted.

The results of the analysis and actions to handle (manage) impartiality risks are reviewed annually as part of the management's review.