



MEMORANDUM of UNDERSTANDING

Between

Members of

The International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC)

and

The International Accreditation Forum (IAF)

and

The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and the IEC Conformity Assessment Systems

1 Background

Members of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), the International Accreditation Forum and the IEC Conformity Assessment Systems have been cooperating for many years on a number of technical and administrative issues. The aim has been to maximize the efficiencies of the parties when dealing with common certification body and testing laboratory clients.

Over the years, this cooperation has included: a pilot programme of joint testing laboratory and certification body re-assessments; recognition of ILAC testing laboratory and IAF certification body accreditations by the IEC Conformity Assessment Systems; agreement by ILAC and IAF to utilise the pool of technical experts registered by the IEC Conformity Assessment Systems for assessments where possible; and the establishment of a Joint IAF/IEC Technical Panel. Most recently the IEC-IAF-ILAC Steering Committee has been formed to explore further the possibilities for recognition of the respective organization's assessments and related activities.

The recognition between the parties facilitates the future conduct of relevant certification body and testing laboratory assessments, reduces duplication of activities and maximizes the harmony in technical evaluations conducted by ILAC, IAF and IEC Conformity Assessment Systems.

As a result of the confidence established between the IEC Conformity Assessment Systems and Members of ILAC and IAF, the Parties have agreed to expand the existing tripartite Memorandum of Understanding to cover initial assessments, surveillance and re-assessments carried out in their respective systems.



2 Understanding

By signing this MoU, the ILAC and IAF Members and the IEC Conformity Assessment Systems agree to cooperate by:

- (a) Maintaining a high level Steering Committee whose terms of reference are:
- to develop cooperation strategy
 - to establish working parties to deal with specific issues
 - to approve changes to the agreed projects and its supporting documentation
 - to monitor and review agreed projects
 - to provide assistance to the projects when required
 - to resolve project conflicts
 - to make decisions on formal acceptance of project deliverables
- (b) Facilitating coordinated application of standards and guidance documents for the purpose of assessment of product and management system certification bodies and testing laboratories operating in the IEC Conformity Assessment Systems, including development and sharing of common understanding of the technical issues and duly harmonizing the respective assessment procedures. Common application and guidance documents will be published and made available to all members of ILAC, IAF and the IEC Conformity Assessment Systems.
- (c) Wherever possible and reasonable, and with the agreement of the concerned certification bodies and testing laboratories, conducting common unified assessments.
- (d) Developing joint training and workshops for the best accomplishment of on-site unified assessments.
- (e) Sharing a large pool of IEC C.A. System' technical assessors for the assessment of testing laboratories and certification bodies;
- (f) Where practicable, conducting joint work on development of harmonised procedures and policies.

This MoU supersedes and replaces the prior tripartite MoU between ILAC, IAF and IEC.

3 Recognition

It is the goal of ILAC, IAF and the IEC as signatories to this MoU that ILAC and IAF AB members and the IEC Conformity Assessment Systems may, on a case by case basis, consider using the results of each other's assessments, common or otherwise, in the conduct of their assessment or peer review activities. This can be accomplished through the continued implementation of this MoU and further confidence building. Use of assessment results is aimed at efficient use of resources and avoidance of duplication. The scope of cooperation may vary depending on the policies of individual ILAC and IAF Member ABs and of the IEC Conformity Assessment Systems, but may include inputs to surveillance or other assessments of certification bodies and testing laboratories, inputs to acceptance decisions and recognition of assessors provided by each Party.



4 Duration

This expanded MoU is hereby established for a period of three (3) years from the date of signing. The effectiveness of the MoU and its content will be reviewed throughout its on-going implementation. The focal point for such review will be the IEC-ILAC-IAF Steering Committee.

The MoU may be renewed with the agreement of the three Parties.

5 Termination

The MoU may be terminated by either Party, subject to six (6) months written notice.

6 Commencement

This Memorandum of Understanding is effective from the date of signing.

Signed:	Signature & Date of Signing
Mr. Frans VREESWIJK General Secretary and CEO International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)	 16-10-2012
Mr. Peter UNGER Chairman International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC)	 25-10-12
Mr. Randy DOUGHERTY Chairman International Accreditation Forum (IAF)	 25-10-2012

FRANS VREESWIJK

P.P. Pierre de Ruvo



2012-10-25

P.P.: Per Procuratorem