



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between
(Members of) the International Accreditation Forum (IAF)
and
The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and the IEC Conformity Assessment Systems

1 Background

Members of the International Accreditation Forum and the IEC Conformity Assessment Systems have been cooperating on a number of technical and administrative issues to maximize the efficiencies of the Parties when dealing with common certification body clients. This cooperation has included: plans for conduct of a pilot programme of joint IAF/IECEE certification body assessments; recognition of IAF certification body accreditation by IECEx and IECQ; the establishment of a Joint IAF / IEC Technical Panel to explore possibilities for recognition of the respective organization's assessments and related activities. Such recognition should facilitate the future conduct of relevant certification body assessments, reduce duplication of activities and maximize the harmony in technical evaluations conducted by both IAF and IEC.

As a result of confidence established between the IEC/CAB, the IEC Systems and Members of IAF, the Parties have agreed to formalise their future cooperation and the recognitions that each Party may acknowledge of the other Parties' relevant activities. Those Members of IAF and Representatives of the IEC Systems accepting the provisions of this MOU are shown as signatories in the Annex.

2 Understanding

It is agreed between the IAF Members and the IEC Conformity Assessment Systems signing this MOU that the Parties will cooperate by:

- (a) Maintaining a Joint IAF-IEC/CAB Technical Panel to facilitate coordinated interpretation and application of ISO/IEC Guide 65 (future ISO/IEC 17065) for the purpose of assessment of product certification bodies operating in the IEC Systems, including development and sharing of common understanding of the technical issues and duly harmonizing the respective assessment procedures.

The Technical Panel may also address issues related to QMS auditing and certification of the organizations delivering products and services covered by the IEC schemes in support of IEC Conformity Assessment Systems' requirements.

Common interpretation and guidance will be published and made available to all members of IAF and the IEC Systems.

In maintaining this Panel, both Parties recognize that specific certification issues may be referred to either (or both) of the IAF Technical Committee and the relevant IEC System Committee (e.g. ACAG for IECEE).

- (b) Establishing a joint Policy Panel should the need arise.
- (c) Wherever possible and reasonable, and with the agreement of the concerned certification bodies, conducting joint assessments of common certification body clients.
- (d) Developing a basis for recognition of the roles of each Party's technical and lead assessors in the conduct of joint assessments, where applicable, including the organization of joint training and workshops for the best accomplishment of such roles, and
- (e) Where practicable, conducting joint work on development of harmonized procedures and policies.

3 Recognition

It is the goal of IAF and the IEC that the signatories to this MOU may, on a case by case basis, consider using the results of each other's assessments, joint or otherwise, in the conduct of their assessment or peer review activities. This can be accomplished through the 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 IAF Member bodies and of the IEC Systems, but may include inputs to surveillance of certification bodies, inputs to acceptance decisions and recognition of assessors provided by each Party.

4 Duration

Initially, this MOU is established for a period of two (2) years from 27 October 2008. The effectiveness of the MOU and its content will be reviewed throughout the period of its implementation. The focal point for such review will be the Joint IAF/IEC Technical Panel.

The MOU may be renewed with the agreement of both Parties.

5 Termination

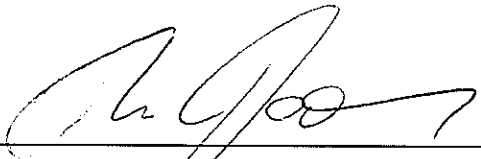
The MOU may be terminated by either Party, subject to six (6) months' written notice.

6 Commencement

This Memorandum of Understanding is effective from 27 October 2008.

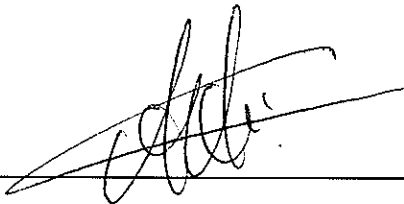
Additional Signatories accepting this MOU are shown in the Annex to this MOU.

Signed:



Dr Thomas Facklam

Chair
International Accreditation Forum
(IAF)



Mr A Amit

General Secretary

International Electrotechnical
Commission (IEC)

Signed on 2008-10-27

