

*International Accreditation Forum, Inc.*  
*(IAF)*



**IAF MLA Document**

**General Principles on Use of the  
IAF MLA Mark**

**Issue 1**

**(IAF ML 2:2004)**

The International Accreditation Forum, Inc. (IAF) operates a programme of conformity assessment which promotes the elimination of non-tariff barriers to trade, removing technical barriers caused by demands for specific certification and/or registration requirements. The IAF programme of conformity assessment delivers the confidence needed for market acceptance of certificates in the fields of management systems, products, services, personnel and other similar programmes of conformity assessment.

The IAF programme allows companies with an accredited conformity assessment certificate in one part of the world to have that certificate recognised everywhere else in the world. IAF promotes the international acceptance of accreditations granted by its signatory accreditation body members of the IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA), based on the equivalence of their accreditation programmes.

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## General Principles on Use of the IAF MLA Mark

### 1. Copyright and Combined Mark

- 1.1 The ownership of the IAF MLA Mark belongs to the International Accreditation Forum, Inc. (IAF), and IAF is responsible for the worldwide protection of the IAF MLA Mark.



- 1.2 IAF will license the right to use the IAF MLA Mark to IAF MLA signatories (hereinafter called “Licensees”) for use in conjunction with each Accreditation Body's (AB) own accreditation mark (hereinafter called “combined mark”) and the Licensees shall prescribe conditions under which the combined mark shall be used in accordance with the requirements of this document.

EXAMPLE



- 1.3 The Certification/Registration Body (CRB) accredited by the Licensee shall only use the combined mark together with an indication as to which activity the accreditation is related.

EXAMPLE



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- 1.4 Evaluation teams of IAF or Regional Accreditation Co-operations (e.g., PAC, EA) shall evaluate the use of the IAF MLA Mark by the Licensee.
  - 1.5 IAF may withdraw the right to use the IAF MLA Mark from Licensees who are found to misuse the combined mark or who fail to impose proper control on the use of the combined mark by their accredited CRBs.
  - 1.6 The license shall be withdrawn upon withdrawal of the Licensee' signatory status by the IAF MLA Group.

## **2. Conditions of License**

- 2.1 The IAF MLA Mark shall only be used in conjunction with the Licensee's own accreditation mark (combined mark) by the Licensee or its accredited CRBs and under no circumstances may the IAF MLA Mark be used on its own by the Licensee or its accredited CRBs. The Licensee shall not allow the CRBs' customers to use the combined mark.
- 2.2 Licensees shall bear all responsibilities for any legal liabilities arising from the use of the combined mark. The Licensee shall stop the use of the combined mark should IAF withdraw the licence as specified in 1.5 and 1.6 of this document. Signatories who have their licences withdrawn shall not hold IAF responsible for the consequences.
- 2.3 The combined mark shall be used by Licensees only for accreditation activities within the scope of the Licensee's recognition under the IAF MLA and by the Licensee's accredited CRBs only for programmes within the scope of their accreditation which has been recognized under the IAF MLA.
- 2.4 Licensees shall specify requirements in accordance with the requirements of this document as to the use of the combined mark by their accredited CRBs to minimize the risk of misunderstanding as to the status, extent and limitation of their accreditation.
- 2.5 Licensees shall ensure that the combined mark is not used in such a manner as to imply that IAF accepts responsibility for activities carried out under the scope of accreditation.
- 2.6 The combined mark may be used on accreditation certificates, accredited certificates, letterheads, quotations for work, advertisements, or websites. The combined mark shall not be used on or in conjunction with products.

End of IAF Document on General Principles on use of the IAF MLA Mark

**Further Information**

For further Information on this document or other IAF documents, contact any member of IAF or the IAF Secretariat.

For contact details of members of IAF see - IAF Web Site - <<http://www.iaf.nu>>

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