



IAF Procedures Document

STRUCTURE OF THE IAF MLA AND LIST OF IAF ENDORSED NORMATIVE DOCUMENTS

**Issue 5, Version 2
(IAF PR 4: 2011)**

The International Accreditation Forum, Inc. (IAF) operates programs for the accreditation of bodies that provide conformity assessment services, and such accreditation facilitates trade and reduces demands for multiple certifications.

Accreditation reduces risk for business and its customers by assuring them that accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) are competent to carry out the work they undertake within their scope of accreditation. Accreditation Bodies (ABs) which are members of IAF and their accredited CABs are required to comply with appropriate international standards and IAF mandatory documents for the consistent application of those standards.

AB members of the IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) conduct regular evaluations of each other to assure the equivalence of their accreditation programs. The IAF MLAs operate at two levels:

- A MLA for the accreditation of CABs to standards including ISO/IEC 17021 for management systems CABs, ISO/IEC 17024 for personnel CABs and ISO/IEC Guide 65 for product CABs, is considered a framework MLA. A framework MLA provides confidence that accredited CABs are equally reliable in the performance of conformity assessment activities.
- A MLA for the accreditation of CABs that also includes the specific conformity assessment standard or scheme as a scope of accreditation provides confidence in the equivalence of certification.

The IAF MLA delivers the confidence needed for market acceptance of certification. An organization or person with certification to a specific standard or scheme that is accredited by an IAF MLA signatory AB can be recognized worldwide thereby facilitating international trade.

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Structure of the IAF MLA and List of IAF Endorsed Normative Documents

1. Scope

- 1.1. This document describes the structure of the IAF MLA and publishes the list of IAF endorsed normative documents as required by document IAF PR 2.
- 1.2. The list of IAF endorsed normative documents will require updating from time to time as more normative documents are endorsed. In these circumstances, this document will not require membership ballot.

2. Definitions

- 2.1. Endorsed normative document - International standards, guides or sector specific schemes approved by the IAF General Assembly for inclusion in the scope of the IAF MLA.

3. References

- 3.1. IAF PL 3 - IAF Policies and Procedures for Expansion of the Scope of the IAF MLA
- 3.2. IAF PR 2 - IAF General Procedures for the Organisation of IAF Committees and Subordinate Groups and for the Development of IAF Documents

4. Structure of the IAF MLA

There are five levels in the IAF MLA structure. Annex 1 provides a diagrammatic representation of the IAF MLA Structure.

- 4.1. Level 1 - ISO/IEC 17011, specifies the criteria for the Accreditation Body (AB).
- 4.2. Level 2 - Accreditation Activities, in which the AB has demonstrated competence to perform accreditation as specified by the IAF endorsed generic accreditation normative documents listed in Level 3. IAF MLA accreditation activities are:
 - Management system certification
 - Product certification
 - Certification of persons

4.3. Level 3 - IAF endorsed generic accreditation normative document used by the AB to assess the Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) competence for each accreditation activity. For example:

- For management system certification - ISO/IEC 17021
- For product certification - ISO/IEC Guide 65
- For certification of persons - ISO/IEC 17024

4.4. Level 4 – IAF endorsed sector specific normative documents which specify internationally recognized applications of the generic normative document listed in Level 3. The documents are used by the AB, in combination with the generic normative document listed in Level 3 to assess the CAB competence in the relevant sector. For example:

(a) Normative document to be used in combination with ISO/IEC 17021:

- For certification of food safety management systems (FSMS) - ISO/TS 22003;
- For certification of information security management systems (ISMS)- ISO/IEC 27006.

(b) Normative documents to be used in combination with ISO/IEC Guide 65:

None currently endorsed

(c) Normative documents to be used in combination with ISO/IEC 17024:

None currently endorsed

4.5. Level 5 – IAF endorsed conformity assessment normative document used by CABs

For example:

(a) Normative document used by Management System Certification Bodies

- For certification of Quality Management Systems (QMS) - ISO 9001);
- For certification of Environmental Management Systems (EMS) - ISO 14001;

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- For certification of Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS)- ISO 22000;
 - For certification of Information Security Management Systems (ISMS) - ISO/IEC 27001.

(b) Normative document used by Product Certification Bodies

None currently endorsed

(c) Normative document used by Personnel Certification Bodies

None currently endorsed

Note 1: *The procedure for expansion of the scope of the IAF MLA in order to include activities, generic and sector specific normative documents is given in IAF PL3.*

Note 2: *The combination of a Level 2 activity and the Level 3 relevant normative document is called a **main scope** of the MLA. The attestations made by CABs where the MLA is at the main scope level are considered to be equally reliable.*

Note 3: *Level 4 and Level 5 do not exist for all main scopes. Level 4 and Level 5 are called **sub-scopes** of the MLA. The attestations made by CABs where the MLA is at the sub-scope level are considered to be equivalent.*

5. List of IAF Endorsed Normative Documents

In accordance with IAF PR 2:2009 General Procedures for the Organisation of IAF Committees and Subordinate Groups and for the Development of IAF Documents, Part Two – General Procedures for the Development of IAF Documents, Section 9, the Members of IAF now declare the following documents to be endorsed by IAF.

5.1. Level 1

- ISO/IEC 17011:2004 - Conformity assessment - General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies.

5.2. Level 3

- ISO/IEC 17021:2006 - Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems.

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- ISO/IEC 17024:2003 - Conformity assessment - General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons.
 - ISO/IEC Guide 65:1996 - General requirements for bodies operating product certification systems.

5.3. Level 4

- ISO/TS 22003:2007 Food Safety Systems – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of food safety management systems
- ISO/IEC 27006:2007 Information technology – Security techniques – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of information security management systems

5.4. Level 5

- ISO 9001:2008 - Quality management systems -- Requirements
- ISO 14001:2004 - Environmental management systems - Requirements with guidance for use
- ISO 22000:2005 - Food safety management systems - Requirements for any organization in the food chain
- ISO 27001:2005 - Information technology - Security techniques - Information security management systems – Requirements
- ISO 13485:2003 - Medical devices – Quality management systems – Requirements for regulatory purposes

End of IAF Procedures Document for Structure of the IAF MLA and List of IAF Endorsed Normative Documents

Further Information

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

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Annex 1 Structure of the IAF MLA

