



## **IAF Procedures Document**

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

**Issue 7**

**(IAF PR 4:2015)**

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The International Accreditation Forum, Inc. (IAF) facilitates trade and supports regulators by operating a worldwide mutual recognition arrangement among Accreditation Bodies (ABs) in order that the results issued by Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) accredited by IAF AB members are accepted globally.

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

ABs that are signatories to the IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) are evaluated regularly by an appointed team of peers to provide confidence in the operation of their accreditation programs. The structure and scope of the IAF MLA is detailed in this document.

The IAF MLA is structured in five levels: Level 1 specifies mandatory criteria that apply to all ABs, ISO/IEC 17011. The combination of a Level 2 activity(ies) and the corresponding Level 3 normative document(s) is called the main scope of the MLA, and the combination of Level 4 (if applicable) and Level 5 relevant normative documents is called a sub-scope of the MLA.

- The main scope of the MLA includes activities e.g. product certification and associated mandatory documents e.g. ISO/IEC 17065. The attestations made by CABs at the main scope level are considered to be equally reliable.
- The sub-scope of the MLA includes conformity assessment requirements e.g. ISO 9001 and scheme specific requirements, where applicable, e.g. ISO TS 22003. The attestations made by CABs at the sub-scope level are considered to be equivalent.

The IAF MLA delivers the confidence needed for market acceptance of conformity assessment outcomes. An attestation issued, within the scope of the IAF MLA, by a body 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 - Policies and Procedures for Expansion of the Scope of the IAF MLA

3.2. IAF PR 2 - General Procedures 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

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- Certification of persons
  - Validation and Verification

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 17065
- For certification of persons - ISO/IEC 17024
- For Greenhouse Gas Validation and Verification – ISO 14065

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 17065:

- GLOBALG.A.P. Integrated Farm Assurance General Regulations

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

None currently endorsed

(d) Normative documents to be used in combination with ISO 14065:

None currently endorsed

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

For example:

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(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;
- 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:

GLOBALG.A.P. IFA Control Points and Compliance Criteria

(c) Normative document used by Personnel Certification Bodies:

None currently endorsed

(d) Normative documents used by Greenhouse Gas Validation and Verification 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 - General Procedures for the Organisation of IAF Committees and Subordinate Groups and for the Development of IAF Documents, Part

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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 17021:2011 - Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems  
Note: Transition to ISO/IEC 17021.1:2015 by 15 June 2017
- ISO/IEC 17024:2012 - Conformity assessment - General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons
- ISO/IEC 17065:2012 - General requirements for bodies operating product certification systems
- ISO 14065:2013 - Greenhouse gases - Requirements for greenhouse gas validation and verification bodies for use in accreditation or other forms of recognition

5.3. Level 4

Management Systems

- ISO/TS 22003:2007 Food Safety Systems – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of food safety management systems  
Note: Transition to ISO/TS 22003:2013 by 12 December 2016
- ISO/IEC 27006:2011 Information technology – Security techniques – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of information security management systems
- ISO/IEC TS 17021-2:2012 - Conformity Assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems – Part 2: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of environmental management systems
- ISO/IEC TS 17021-3:2013 - Conformity Assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems – Part 3: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of quality management systems

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Product certification

- GLOBALG.A.P. Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) General Regulations

## 5.4. Level 5

Management Systems

- ISO 9001:2008 - Quality management systems – Requirements  
Note: Transition to ISO 9001:2015 by 15 September 2018
- ISO 14001:2004 - Environmental management systems - Requirements with guidance for use  
Note: Transition to ISO 14001:2015 by 15 September 2018
- ISO 22000:2005 - Food safety management systems - Requirements for any organization in the food chain
- ISO/IEC 27001:2013 - Information technology - Security techniques - Information security management systems – Requirements
- ISO 13485:2003 - Medical devices – Quality management systems – Requirements for regulatory purposes

Product certification

- GLOBALG.A.P. IFA Control Points and Compliance Criteria

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 Secretariat.

For contact details of members of IAF see the IAF website: <http://www.iaf.nu>.

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**Annex 1**

Structure of the IAF MLA								
Level 1	ISO/IEC 17011							
Level 2	Product Certification	Management Systems Certification					Certification of Persons	Validation and Verification
Level 3	ISO/IEC 17065	ISO/IEC 17021					ISO/IEC 17024	ISO 14065
Level 4	GLOBALG.A.P. IFA General Regulations	ISO/TS 22003 (FSMS)	ISO/IEC TS 17021-3 (QMS)	ISO/IEC TS 17021-2 (EMS)	ISO/IEC 27006 (ISMS)		Future Endorsed Normative Documents	
Level 5	GLOBALG.A.P. IFA CPCCs	ISO 22000	ISO 9001	ISO 14001	ISO/IEC 27001	ISO 13485		

Legend:

- Level 1 is the endorsed normative document for Accreditation Bodies.
- Levels 2 and 3 are main scopes and endorsed normative documents.
- Levels 4 and 5 are the sub-scopes and endorsed normative documents.