



## **MEMORANDUM of UNDERSTANDING Between**

**The International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC)  
and  
The International Accreditation Forum (IAF)  
and  
The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)**

### **1 Background**

The International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) 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 conformity assessment services and the associated certification bodies and testing laboratories.

Over the years, this cooperation has included: a pilot programme of joint ILAC, IAF/IECEE and IECEx 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 further explore possibilities for recognition of the respective organization's assessments and related activities.

The recognition between the parties facilitates the future execution 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 agreed to renew the Memorandum of Understanding for a further period to cover all types of assessments carried out in their respective systems.



## 2 Understanding

It is agreed, between ILAC, IAF, and the IEC, that this MoU provides for the Parties 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 their 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 activities, 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 accreditation bodies, 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 of IEC Conformity Assessment Systems' technical assessors from their respective peer assessor pools 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 MoU between ILAC, IAF, IEC and IEC Conformity Assessment Systems.

## 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 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 the period of its ongoing implementation. The focal point for such review will be the IEC-ILAC-IAF Steering Committee.



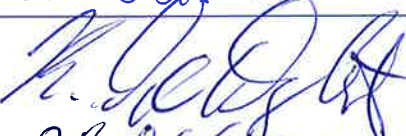
The MoU may be renewed with the agreement of the three Parties.

#### 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<br>General Secretary & CEO<br>International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) | <br>11-11-2015      |
| Mr. Peter UNGER<br>Chairman<br>International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC)          | <br>28 Oct 2015     |
| Mr. Randy DOUGHERTY<br>Chairman<br>International Accreditation Forum (IAF)                        | <br>28 October 2015 |