Communique
June 6-8, 1994 - Geneva

During its fourth meeting in Geneva, June 6-8, 1994, the IAF participants affirmed their commitment to removing technical barriers to trade through the promotion of worldwide acceptance of quality system certifications/registrations and product conformity certification.

Suppliers are increasingly asking independent bodies (certification or registration bodies) to confirm that supplier quality systems comply with the ISO 9000 series of standards and that their products comply with technical standards. The purpose is to give assurance of quality, principally to buyers, and increasingly to regulators. To give added confidence in these certificates many of the bodies which issue them seek accreditation from authoritative national accreditation bodies.

The International Accreditation Forum is the worldwide forum where these accreditation bodies come together so that they can cooperate to achieve equivalence in their accreditation programs. The aim is to build confidence in, and worldwide acceptance of, certifications and registrations issued by accredited bodies.

Two new members were welcomed at this meeting, Argentina and Malaysia. It was noted that IAF now has 30 participating countries, 16 were represented at the meeting. It was again emphasized that the IAF is open to all accreditation bodies. The list of the participants of this meeting is attached. Observers from ISO, [LAC and HOC attended the meeting. It was also agreed that any international or regional organization representing certification/registration bodies may participate as observers.

The meeting participants:

1. expressed satisfaction at the growing contribution of the use of accredited certifications/registrations in promoting international trade;

2. welcomed the joint initiative of Chrysler, Ford and General Motors to rely on accredited ISO 9001 certification / registration for assurance of their suppliers’ capability;

3. identified the need for common understanding of the significance of quality system certification as a means of assuring quality;

4. rearmed its willingness to work with ISO/EEC in its QSAR initiative on the understanding that it would use, not duplicate, accreditation;

5. recognized the emerging international significance of Environmental System certification and agreed to work toward international coordination of accreditation in this field;

6. agreed to extend its objectives to promote the international acceptance of product conformity certification:
7. agreed to consider at its next meeting the accreditation issues related to various proposals for certification/registration of software quality systems;

8. asked LAY working group 1, dealing with the IAF interpretation of EN 45011, EN 45012 and ISO/IEC related documents, and IAF working group 2, dealing with the development of procedures for establishing multilateral agreements, to complete their work during the next meeting of the IAF;


Legend:
IIOC Independent International Organization for Certification
ILAC International Laboratory Accreditation Conference
QSAR ad hoc planning group for Quality System Assessment Recognition

PARTICIPANTS FROM NATIONAL ACCREDITATION BODIES

Marcelo Taboada Buenos Aires Quality System Argentina
Mario Osvaldo Witmer Argentine Standardization Institute Argentina

John Hulbert Joint Accreditation System Australia and New Zealand Australia
Jose Joaquim do Amaral Ferreira Brazilian Certification Committee Brazil

Reinaldo Baibino Figueiredo National Institute of Metrology, Standardization and Industrial Quality Brazil
Gerry Bartels Standards Council of Canada Canada

Ronald S. James Standards Council of Canada Canada
Xiao Jianhua China National Accreditation Committee for Quality System Registration Bodies China

Me Jun China State Bureau of Technical Supervision China
Thomas Facklam German Association for Accreditation Germany

Monika Wtoka Office of the German Accreditation Council Germany
Enrico Martinotti Accreditamento Organismi Certification Italy
Takashi Ohtsubo  Shoichiro Okujo
The Japan Accreditation Board for The Japan Accreditation Board for
Quality System Registration Quality System Registration
Japan Japan

Jeong-Kwu Park  JangSop Han
Industrial Advancement Administration Industrial Advancement Administration
Korea Korea

Hong-Soon Chang  Rajinder Raj
Korean Bureau of Standards, Industrial Standards and Industrial Research
Advancement Administration Institute of Malaysia
Korea Malaysia

Christer Bjorck  Lars Ettarp
Swedish Board for Technical Accreditation Swedish Board for Technical Accreditation
Sweden Sweden

Hans-Peter Ischi  Jean-Pierre Jaunin
Swiss Accreditation Service Swiss Accreditation Service
Switzerland Switzerland

Harry Gundlach  Paul Hewlett
Dutch Council for Certification National Accreditation Council for
The Netherlands Certification Bodies
United Kingdom

George Lofgren  James R. Roberts
Registrar Accreditation Board Accreditation Committee of the
United States American National Standards Institute
United States

John Stratton
Registrar Accreditation Board
United States
OBSERVERS FROM INTERNATIONAL BODIES

Juichi Nagano  
International Organization for Standardization

Pierre-Michel Volandre  
International Organization for Standardization

Linda Campbell  
International Independent Organization for Certification

Jeffery L. Homer  
International Independent Organization for Certification

John W. Locke  
International Laboratory Accreditation Conference

INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION FORUM SECRETARIAT

Leroy M. May  
American National Standards Institute  
United States

George T. Willingmyre  
American National Standards Institute  
United States