

**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. reaffirmed 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;
9. agreed to meet again in Geneva January 18-20, 1995.

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  
The Japan Accreditation Board for  
Quality System Registration  
Japan

Shoichiro Okujo  
The Japan Accreditation Board for  
Quality System Registration  
Japan

Jeong-Kwu Park  
Industrial Advancement Administration  
Korea

JangSop Han  
Industrial Advancement Administration  
Korea

Hong-Soon Chang  
Korean Bureau of Standards, Industrial  
Advancement Administration  
Korea

Rajinder Raj  
Standards and Industrial Research  
Institute of Malaysia  
Malaysia

Christer Bjorck  
Swedish Board for Technical Accreditation  
Sweden

Lars Ettarp  
Swedish Board for Technical Accreditation  
Sweden

Hans-Peter Ischi  
Swiss Accreditation Service  
Switzerland

Jean-Pierre Jaunin  
Swiss Accreditation Service  
Switzerland

Harry Gundlach  
Dutch Council for Certification  
The Netherlands

Paul Hewlett  
National Accreditation Council for  
Certification Bodies  
United Kingdom

George Lofgren  
Registrar Accreditation Board  
United States

James R. Roberts  
Accreditation Committee of the  
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