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IAF MLA

Purpose

The MLA Mark

The Evaluation Process

Scopes

IAF MLA

Accreditation body members of IAF are admitted to the IAF MLA only after a most stringent evaluation of their operations by a peer evaluation team which is charged to ensure that the applicant member complies fully with both the international standards and IAF requirements. Once an accreditation body is a signatory of the IAF MLA it is required to recognise the certificates issued by conformity assessment bodies accredited by all other signatories of the IAF MLA, with the appropriate scope.

The IAF MLA consists of a five level arrangement, with levels two and three constituting the Main scope and levels 4 and 5 constituting the Sub-scope. More information on the structure of the MLA can be found under **IAF PR 4:2010 Structure of IAF MLA and Endorsed Normative Documents** in [Procedure Documents \(PR Series\)](#).

Although the IAF MLA is signed by individual accreditation bodies, the IAF MLA relies heavily on the MLA of the three regional accreditation groups; the European co-operation for Accreditation (EA), the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) and the InterAmerican Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC), as it is these groups which perform the majority of the peer evaluation activity not the IAF.

To gain confidence in the work of the regional accreditation groups, the IAF evaluated and accepted the process and outcomes of the three regional accreditation group MLAs for the Main scope of ISO/IEC 17021 and the sub-scope of ISO 9001 and two regional accreditation groups, EA and PAC for the Main scopes of ISO/IEC 17021 and ISO/IEC Guide 65 and Sub-scope of ISO 14001. Regional accreditation groups are evaluated every four years by the IAF. Membership of the IAF MLA is recognised as being satisfied by membership of any of the EA MLA, the PAC MLA or the IAAC MLA, within the appropriate scope.

IAF is encouraging more of its members to join the MLA as soon as they have passed a rigorous evaluation process to ensure that their accreditation programs are of world standard. The consequence of joining the IAF MLA is that conformity assessment certificates issued, within the scope of the IAF MLA, by conformity assessment bodies accredited by any one of the members of the IAF MLA will be recognised in the world wide IAF program.

Contact details of the accreditation bodies which are signatories to the MLA are listed on the [IAF Members](#) pages. Those members which are signatories are denoted by "Date Admitted to the MLA".

Details of the signatories of the IAF MLA programs at the dates shown are listed in the following document:

[List of IAF MLA Group Members - 7 December 2011](#)

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