



IAF and IPC MLA AGREEMENT

1. Introduction

1.1 International Personnel Certification Association, *from now on referred to as IPC* is the scheme owner of the world-wide operated "IPC Management System Auditors certification scheme", *from now on referred to as "IPC Management System Auditors"*. IPC has sought and received endorsement of their IAF scheme as a sub-scope of the IAF MLA in accordance with IAF PL3 and this Agreement.

1.2 IPC requires Certification Bodies (CBs) operating in its "IPC Management System Auditors" to be accredited by an Accreditation Body (AB) that is a signatory to the IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) with a main scope of person certification

1.3 "IPC Management System Auditors" sets voluntary standards for the certification of Management Systems (MS) auditors. The two certification grades that IPC recognizes are IPC MS Auditor, and IPC MS Lead Auditor. The certification of an IPC-graded auditor only indicates the individual's competence to perform MS audits. The IPC scheme does not identify the area of technical competence that an individual may have. The responsibility for identifying that an auditor has the necessary knowledge and understanding of the technical environment to perform an audit of a specific organization will still rest with those responsible for managing the audit process.

1.4 IPC contracts at the time of this Agreement with over 17 of CBs Worldwide under the "IPC Management System Auditors", the supervision of which is carried out by the ABs that are IAF MLA signatories.

1.5 The "IPC Management System Auditors" certification process is performed by more than 80,000 auditors. Requirements for the professional competence of personnel (auditors) are defined in Section 4 (Competence Required for each Grade of IPC Management Systems Auditors) of the "IPC Management System Auditors" General Regulations.

1.6 IPC delegates the responsibility of supervision of the CBs it contracts with to the corresponding IAF Accreditation Bodies, noting that harmonization of criteria applied by the different ABs is increasingly important to ensure consistency of that supervision.

1.7 "IPC Management System Auditors" provides the standard and framework for independent, recognized 3rd party certification of Management System Auditors based on ISO/IEC 17024.

1.8 The **International Accreditation Forum (IAF)** is the world association of conformity assessment accreditation bodies in the fields of management systems, products, services, process, persons and other similar programs of conformity assessment.

1.9 IAF is responsible for the harmonization and continuous improvement of the accreditation practices of its members with the ultimate goal to ensure sound technical competence of accredited CBs/VBs (Verification Bodies) and to support its IAF MLA.

1.10 The IAF MLA is established and maintained on the basis of the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011 through regular peer evaluations and is the tool by which IAF contributes to the elimination of technical barriers to trade and to promoting the free circulation of certificates issued by accredited CBs.

2. Administration and Cooperation

2.1 Both IAF and IPC, by means of this formal Agreement, have decided to develop and maintain a close cooperation between the two organizations to ensure harmonization in the accreditation practices performed by IAF members in the "IPC Management System Auditors" certification scheme and to cooperate in the continuous improvement of the certification scheme with the final goal of assuring the highest level of competence in the "IPC Management System Auditors" certification scheme's accredited CBs.

2.2 IAF and IPC shall comply with the respective requirements of IAF PL3 *IAF Policies and Procedures for Expansion of the Scope of the IAF MLA*, operating and administrating in an open, non-discriminatory and transparent manner, avoiding conflicts of interest or limitation on the acceptance of CBs or ABs other than relevant technical considerations.

2.3 Both IAF and IPC shall appoint a liaison person of each organization to act as contact persons.

2.4 The "IPC Management System Auditors" will be open to all CBs that are accredited by IAF MLA signatories. The accreditation bodies will be signatory members of the IAF MLA for Person (ISO/IEC 17024) and have agreed to implement the Memorandum of Understanding between IPC and IAF (MoU). A list of IAF ABs that have agreed to implement the MoU shall be maintained on the IPC Website.

2.5 IPC will only work with IAF MLA signatories and who have agreed to implement the MoU. IPC will stop working with an AB that is no longer a signatory to the IAF MLA or has not implemented and maintained the MoU.

3. Information Exchange

In order to achieve such goals both organizations have agreed upon the following:

3.1 IPC shall inform the IAF of the following:

- (a) Any changes to the "IPC Management System Auditors" system that may impact on compliance of the "IPC Management System Auditors" with IAF PL3;
- (b) Any revision/extension of "IPC Management System Auditors" certification scheme standards/documents;
- (c) Outcomes from any AB workshop held by IPC;
- (d) Any findings IPC may have regarding IAF MLA signatory ABs.

3.2 IAF shall inform IPC of the following:

- (a) Whenever an IAF MLA signatory with a sub-scope of "IPC Management System Auditors" certification scheme has been suspended or had their IAF MLA signatory status withdrawn;
- (b) Any general or technical questions regarding the interpretation of the "IPC Management System Auditors" standards/documents;

(c) Changes in policy, procedure or documentation that may have impact on the IAF MLA and "IPC Management System Auditors" sub-scope.

4. Mandatory Interpretations on "IPC Management System Auditors" Documents

4.1 "IPC Management System Auditors" documents and modules shall be prepared using the "IPC Management System Auditors" Procedure for the setting and revision of "IPC Management System Auditors" Standards.

This shall include a public review phase comprising two rounds of comment submissions by interested parties, each lasting 60 days. The second round of comment may generally be conducted following completion of two trial audits in the field with feedback being provided to organizations that made the comment. A summary of comments shall be available on the "IPC Management System Auditors" Website.

4.2 The IAF will be considered as a stakeholder and invited during any public consultation period of the standard revision process.

4.3 The review period for the "IPC Management System Auditors" normative documents shall be five (5) years. "IPC Management System Auditors" normative documents shall be available free of charge on the IPC website (www.ipcaweb.org).

4.4 The IPC will provide new draft version document(s) with a gap analysis and proposed transition plan for implementation of the new version documents to IAF in order to make sure, that the scheme continues to comply with the requirements of IAF PL3.

4.5 The need for the development of specific IAF application documents for inclusion of publicly owned standards/normative documents in the IAF MLA shall be proposed by the IAF Technical Committee and the need for additional preparation of peer evaluation by the IAF MLA Committee as specified in IAF PL3.

5. Implementation

5.1 IAF and IPC shall each bear their own costs.

5.2 The revision of the implementation of this Agreement is in the scope of the MLA Peer evaluation to the IAF Person MLA signatories working in the certification scheme that have agreed to implement the MoU.

6. Confidentiality

IAF shall hold all Confidential Information in strictest confidence and shall only use it for the purpose for which it was provided and shall not disclose or make available any Confidential Information to any third party without the prior written consent of IPC.


7. Term

This Agreement shall commence from the Date of Signing and, unless terminated earlier according to clause 8, continue for a period of 3 years.

8. Cancellation

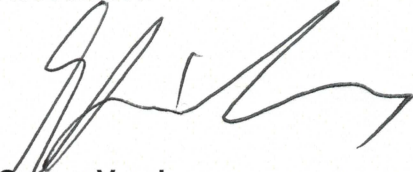
This Agreement between IPC and IAF can be cancelled by either party in writing with a period of notice of three months.

International Accreditation Forum, Inc.



**Xiao Jianhua
Chairman of IAF**

**International Personnel Certification
Association**



**Osman Vural
Chairman of IPC**

Date of Agreement:

2017-10-28