



## **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.

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.

#### **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 five (5) 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.


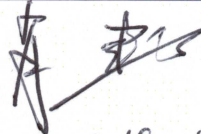


**5 Termination**

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 General Secretary & CEO International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)	
Mrs. Merih MALMQVIST NILSSON Chair International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC)	Merih Malmqvist Nilsson 28 <sup>th</sup> Nov, 2018
Mr. XIAO Jianhua Chair International Accreditation Forum (IAF)	 28 <sup>th</sup> Nov, 2018